

Soviets blow up 3 SS-20s

MOSCOW (R) — A batch of three SS-20 missiles was blown up at a Soviet missile base Sunday to mark the start of a three-year programme to scrap all such weapons under the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty. The official Soviet news agency TASS reported that the three missiles were exploded at the Kapustin Yar test range, 90 kilometres southeast of the city of Volgograd. TASS said the operation was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sergei Galchenko, head of the Kapustin Yar Base, where 600 SS-20s are to be destroyed. "I took part in preparations for the first test launches of SS-20s. So for me it's not easy to destroy these sophisticated missiles with my own hands," Galchenko said. TASS gave no details of how the blast was carried out but said the operation was watched by a group of United Nations representatives and Soviet and foreign journalists. It said the missiles would be scrapped in batches of three on the 15th and 30th of each month. Each batch of missiles would be destroyed with a single explosion, which would leave a crater up to 18 metres deep and 45 metres across. "The remains of the missiles burn down fully in only 35 seconds. Then bulldozers fill in the crater and prepare it for the next explosion," TASS said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي.

Volume 13 Number 3867

AMMAN MONDAY AUGUST 29, 1988, MUHARRAM 16, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

AROUND THE WORLD...

Egypt backs Indonesian bid

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said Sunday it supported Indonesia's bid to become chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement when it meets in Cyprus next month. "The Non-Aligned Movement will be in good hands with Indonesia," Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid told reporters after a meeting between President Hosni Mubarak and Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas. Alatas, who arrived Saturday for a three-day visit ahead of the Sept. 5 meeting of non-aligned foreign ministers, said he handed Mubarak a message from President Suharto on bilateral ties and coordination at the Nicosia meeting.

Sino-Soviet Kampuchea talks begin

PEKING (R) — China reported without comment Sunday its first day of talks with Soviet officials on resolving the 10-year-old Kampuchean war. State television said that Soviet Vice-Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, who arrived in Peking Saturday, met a team led by Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei. It gave no details of where the unprecedented talks were held or how long they took. Soviet embassy officials confirmed that the talks had been held as scheduled but they too declined comment.

Bangladeshis flee floods to cities

DHAKA (R) — Thousands of people homeless in floods which have killed more than 100 Bangladeshis are coming to cities every day in the hope of finding food and shelter. "The frenzied influx has been triggered by fears that flooded areas will be totally incommunicable in a few days," one official at Aricha, the main ferry station that links the capital Dhaka with northern Bangladesh, said Sunday. Part of the station has been destroyed by strong currents in the flooded Brahmaputra river. Nearly 60,000 villagers have sheltered in temporary camps across the country but nearly one million are marooned in remote areas.

Ousted Panama president visits Miami

MIAMI (AP) — Ousted Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle slipped out of his hiding place in Panama City and arrived here Saturday for a brief and personal visit, said Juan Sosa, the nation's ambassador to the United States. Sosa denied that Delvalle was fleeing Panama, television station WCIX reported. Sosa would not say whether Delvalle's visit involves efforts to overthrow Panama's military ruler, Manuel Antonio Noriega. "He has an agenda," Sosa said. "We're not divulging the agenda for obvious reasons. President Delvalle is committed to establishing a democracy in Panama. That's as far as I will go in my comment."

Romanian, Hungarian leaders meet

VIENNA (R) — Hungarian leader Karoly Grosz began talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in the Romanian town of Arad Sunday aimed at solving an unprecedented dispute between the two Warsaw Pact allies. Hungary's official MTI news agency, monitored here, said the "working meeting" — the first top-level talks between the countries for 11 years — began immediately after Grosz's arrival for a town-square welcome by Ceausescu. Relations between Bucharest and Budapest, long soured by Romania's treatment of its two million-strong Hungarian minority, plunged into crisis when tens of thousands marched through Budapest in June.

Arab fund makes loan to S. Yemen

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) is lending South Yemen 6.1 million Arab accounting dinars (\$25 million) to help to finance budget and trade deficits, the Emirates news agency WAM reported Sunday. It said the loan, carrying interest of between 5.2 and 6.4 per cent, brought the total lent to South Yemen by the Abu Dhabi-based fund to 23.1 million dinars (\$95 million). WAM said the loan agreement was signed in Damascus, where monetary officials of several Arab countries and organisations ended a conference Sunday.

Azerbaijan leader details Karabakh plan

MOSCOW (R) — The leader of the Communist Party in Soviet Azerbaijan, in an interview published Sunday, said progress had been made on measures aimed at reducing ethnic unrest in the province of Nagorno-Karabakh. Abdul Rakham Vezirov's comments, in the party daily Pravda, came after a meeting at which Nagorno-Karabakh council members complained that the Azerbaijani authorities were dragging their feet. Vezirov told Pravda the first section of an Armenian television centre for Nagorno-Karabakh had been constructed and an Armenian-language press for books and newspapers would be set up by the end of the year. Armenians of the province have been assigned educational places in the Republic of Armenia, he said, and more housing, improvements to Stepanakert airport and a reservoir to help local agriculture were planned.

Burundi refuses international probe

GENEVA (R) — Burundi ruled out Sunday any prospect of letting an international commission into the central African country to probe tribal massacres of thousands of its citizens. But Foreign Minister Cyprien Mbonimpa said he met United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to ask instead for \$15 million in aid for 100,000 people made homeless by the violence this month (see related story on page 8). Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, asked Burundi last Wednesday to allow international observers to investigate the massacres, in which the army took a prominent role. But Mbonimpa told a news conference that was out of the question.

Alen wins 1,000 Lakes Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — Markku Alen of Finland, driving a Lancia Integrale, profited from the misfortune of fellow-Finn Juha Kankkunen to win the 1,000 Lakes Motor Rally for the sixth time Sunday. Swede Mikael Ericsson, also in a Lancia Integrale, finished second and France's Didier Auriol was third in a Ford Sierra Cosworth. Alen, whose total time for the 39 stages was four hours 35 minutes 29 seconds, had trailed Kankkunen, in a Toyota Celica, by three seconds after 33 stages. But Kankkunen, world champion in 1986 and 1987 and seeking to win this event for the first time, was forced to retire during the next special stage with gearbox problems.

Iran claims rebel leaders killed in 'purge'

NICOSIA (AP) — Some leaders of the Iranian anti-government Mujahedeen-e-Khalq have been killed in a "bloody purge" at the orders of the group's leader, Massoud Rajavi, Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The Iraqi-backed group said in a telex from its office in Baghdad that the claim by the state-run radio was "absolutely false." Tehran Radio said the Mujahedeen leaders were killed because of their "disgraceful defeat" at the hands of Iranian forces in western Iran last month. The Mujahedeen responded in the telex: "The Khomeini regime's urgent need to make such totally false statements is of course understandable in the wake of the defeat it suffered from (Mujahedeen) forces."

Iraq reaffirms rejection of 1975 treaty

Gulf talks make little progress

GENEVA (Agencies) — An age-old dispute over river navigation rights appeared to be holding up progress as Iran and Iraq resumed talks Sunday on putting a permanent end to the eight-year-old Gulf war.

Neither side made substantive comments as the talks, which opened Thursday, began late Sunday afternoon after a weekend break. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is chairing the negotiations, eluded reporters. Iraq said Sunday that a 1975 treaty with Iran, settling navigational and border disputes over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, no longer existed. Saadoun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) as saying Iran had to try to negotiate a new pact.

Navigation rights in the waterway, Iraq's only major sea outlet, are believed the main obstacle to progress at the Geneva talks. Iraq repudiated the 1975 Algiers agreement a few days before the war began in 1980, after a series of border clashes. Shortly before the Geneva talks resumed Sunday, Tehran radio accused Iraq of putting forward "irrelevant preconditions" about the Shatt Al Arab. The radio quoted sources close to the talks as saying the Iraqis were calling for the waterway to

be dredged before agreeing to a date for withdrawal of the two sides' forces to international borders.

INA quoted Hamadi as saying later Sunday:

"The Shatt Al Arab is an Iraqi waterway... and has been throughout history. Any attempt by Iran to undermine Iraq's full sovereignty over this waterway will face a complete rejection from our side. The Iranian side should be aware of this reality and behave on this basis in the quest for a just and lasting peace."

The Shatt Al Arab forms part of the southern border between the two countries and is the only outlet to the sea for Iraq's major port, Basra.

Responding to an earlier claim by Iranian President Ali

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Israelis close federation of Palestinian charities

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Israeli police shut down a federation of 108 Palestinian charities Sunday, three days after closing seven Palestinian professional associations and the Nablus offices of the Trade Union Federation.

The Israeli moves came as part of a larger effort to disrupt the grassroots organisation of the eight-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A Palestinian was hacked to

death in the West Bank Sunday, apparently by Palestinians who suspected him of collaborating with Israel.

Soldiers confined 140,000 residents of the occupied territories to their homes to prevent demonstrations.

The body of Samih Yousef Dababseh, 30, was found tied to a pylon in central Hebron. Palestinians alleged he was an undercover agent for Shin Bet, the Israeli secret police.

He was the fifth victim in as

many days of attacks on Palestinians thought to be helping Israeli authorities, sources said.

Underground leaders of the revolt have called for attacks on collaborators.

Dababseh was from Yatta, a town near Hebron of 45,000 people where a suspected collaborator was also hacked to death by residents Thursday.

An army source said: "There is speculation that maybe he was a

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Kabul airport comes under heavy attacks

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan

rebels blasted Kabul airport with rockets that damaged aircraft, buildings and runways. Western diplomatic sources and the Soviet Union's TASS news agency said Sunday.

TASS said four people were killed and 17 wounded.

A warehouse and a fuel tank truck were "burned out," while three civilian aircraft sustained "insignificant damage," TASS said, adding that the shelling came from the direction of Khake-Jabbara, 25 kilometres from the capital.

The diplomats, quoting a dispatch from their Kabul embassy, said more than 20 rockets hit the civilian-military facility Saturday afternoon and early evening during a two-hour period.

The dispatch said helicopters and jet fighters scrambled, but several large aircraft remained on the ground.

"A Western diplomat saw several rockets hit directly in front of the old airport control tower, about 200 yards (metres) to the north, and then saw three rockets impact directly between the main runways, apparently damaging at least one of them," the dispatch said.

It was released to the news media on condition the issuing

embassy not be identified by nationality.

Guerrillas fighting Kabul's Soviet-backed government have stepped up attacks on the capital and provincial centres since Moscow's troops began withdrawing from Afghanistan May 15 following eight years of war.

On April 14, 1988, the Soviet Union signed documents in Geneva agreeing to withdraw its troops over a nine-month period ending Feb. 15, 1989. The withdrawal began on schedule.

The Soviet-backed Kabul government said only Soviet troops, not Soviet military advisors, would leave.

Diplomats said Saturday's attack appeared to come from only a few kilometres southeast of the airport. The dispatch indicated the rebels had penetrated the city's heavily fortified security rings.

Combined reports from the war zones indicate the rebels hold two Afghan provincial capitals and have besieged at least two more.

Afghan President Najibullah, in a speech to the Afghan National Assembly Saturday night, said his government planned to declare "coalition or neutral zones" on the basis of negotiations with "armed opposition groups."

Probe said to find sabotage in Zia crash

LONDON (Agencies) — The

Sunday Times of London reported that an initial inquiry found sabotage was to blame for the airplane death of Pakistan President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and 29 others.

The London newspaper said Pakistani officials "believe Zia was killed by an international conspiracy involving five Pakistani activists in Britain."

But the Observer newspaper said Sunday that Pakistani authorities were convinced India's intelligence service was responsible for the crash.

There has been no official report on the cause of the Aug. 17 crash that also killed U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Arnold Raphael.

On Sunday, Pakistani officials and U.S. and British diplomats all said they had no knowledge of an initial report on the crash or

the allegations.

U.S. diplomats have said they do not expect any information on the cause of the crash until after two U.S. investigating teams submit their findings to the Pakistanis, which could take another week or more.

The Sunday Times gave no attribution for its claim that "an initial inquiry into the air crash... has confirmed that sabotage was to blame."

It said that because Pakistan has no extradition treaty with Britain, the Pakistan government is approaching the British embassy in Islamabad to ask that five Pakistanis in Britain be sent to Pakistan.

The embassy said Sunday there had been no such approach from Pakistan. Both the Foreign Office and Home Office in London said they knew nothing about such a

request, Britain's domestic Press Association news agency reported.

Another London newspaper, the Sunday Telegraph, said the inquiry has concluded the plane was shot down by a missile. In its report from Washington, attributed to unidentified U.S. sources, the newspaper did not say what kind of missile was involved or who was responsible for it.

It said investigators ruled out a bomb because the crash site was small and the debris was not scattered.

The Observer, meanwhile, said experts have been unable to pinpoint the cause of the crash. Its report was attributed to high-level Pakistani sources, also unnamed.

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda Sunday



His Majesty King Hussein with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah Sunday (Petra wirephoto)

King visits Jeddah for talks on Arab issues

JEDDAH (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and a high-level delegation arrived here Sunday on a visit to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on Arab affairs and the latest developments in the Arab region.

King Fahd was at the head of Saudi royal family members and senior officials to welcome King Hussein upon his arrival, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra said the King's "short working visit comes within the framework of consultations and coordination between both leaders on various Arab issues and the latest developments in the region."

The delegation accompanying the King includes Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, the

King's Private Chamberlain His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ibn Nayef, and Sharif Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah, the King's advisor on tribal affairs.

Upon his departure, the King

was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, senior government officials and high-ranking army officers. Prince Hassan was sworn-in as Regent before the King's departure.

Arafat aide: Jordan's step in right direction

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Jordan's

decision to sever formal links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank is a step in the right direction and eliminated all negative aspects of relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), according to a senior PLO official.

Kuwait's Al Anbaw daily quoted Hani Al Hassan, advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, as saying that the Jordanian decision had removed the last obstacle impeding increased international recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

Hassan told Al Anbaw that the PLO should now take advantage of the Jordanian decision, "which represents the most important Arab political move in the last 40 years."

The PLO will continue its efforts to give further momentum to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and to enable the Palestinian people to bolster their identity in their homeland before launching other moves to rally international support for a peace conference on the Middle East," Hassan said.

Hassan said that the end of the Iran-Iraq war "is bound to improve the situation in the region and pave the way for Iraq to play a leading role in the region."

Committee to continue work

In a related development, the secretary-general of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee

for Supporting the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People said the committee would pursue its mission regardless of the break in Jordan's formal ties with the West Bank.

Dr. Fuad Beseio told Agence France Presse (AFP) that both the Jordanian government and the PLO had emphasised that the committee should be able to maintain its services in supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

Beseio noted that the committee was established at the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit when seven Arab states pledged to extend financial assistance to it totalling \$977 million over a period of 10 years. Only half of that amount, he said, has been received and offered as loans and grants to the Palestinian people for housing, agricultural and industrial projects.

PLO-U.N. talks

In Geneva, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat "stressed the need for immediate international measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people," during a meeting with the U.N. secretary-general Saturday.

A statement issued by the PLO office said Arafat also briefed the U.N. chief on the steps taken by the PLO "to assert the sovereignty of the Palestinian people over its homeland and the assumption

(Continued on page 5)

Rocard: Kanak peace will be a world success

NOUMEA, New Caledonia

(Agencies) — French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, ending a visit to New Caledonia Sunday, has set a difficult course for the next decade — to decolonise the troubled South Pacific territory while keeping it French.

Rocard, flanked by three senior cabinet ministers, left late Sunday for the return journey to Paris 20,000 kilometres away after a successful three-day visit seen here and in France as vital to the territory's future.

His whirlwind tour of the islands was aimed at bolstering a 10-year reconciliation plan signed a week ago in Paris by leaders of the territory's two camps — indigenous Melanesian separatists and mainly white settlers loyal to France.

"What we are undertaking here," he said in a television interview in Noumea, "is a veritable economic and cultural de-colonisation without any change in (French) sovereignty."

"If it works, it will be a major world success."

The peace plan, set to culminate with an independence referendum in 1998, aims to give the territory's impoverished Kanak (ethnic Melanesian) community more say in the political and economic affairs of the territory.

It provides for a year of direct rule by Paris followed by nine of limited home-rule tilted in favour of the Kanaks before the independence vote.

Determined to see the plan fulfilled, Rocard wants it enacted by a nationwide referendum, a move that will strengthen its constitutional validity and make it difficult to undo by a new administration.

The referendum, which the Socialist prime minister hopes to hold Nov. 6, will be the first in France in 16 years.

But while the plan halted the latest upsurge of violence in which 28 people died earlier this year, many are waiting to see whether it can bring a decade or more of peaceful coexistence.

"If the others win independence in 1998," a white settler said, "We may have no choice but to pack our bags and go."

And in the separatist hotspot of Canala, where Kanak snipers this year held French troops at bay for three months, Leopold Jorede, third-in-command of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), said:

"These promises to help the Melanesians, to give us a better economic deal, I've heard them endless times before. I'm waiting to see."



Women around the world are returning to more traditional ways of nourishing their children. From top left in Nepal, the United States, and Africa

Nothing replaces mother's milk

Experts advocate breast-feeding, birth spacing

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women in Jordan will be advised on the benefits of breast-feeding and birth spacing for both the mother and child through a programme initiated by the Health Communications for Child Survival (HEALTHCOM) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

"When a mother gives herself at least 24 months before getting pregnant again, she gives herself enough time to rebuild the nutrients in her body to be able to breast-feed the next baby efficiently, and also to have enough time and nutrition to breast-feed the previous baby properly," said Dr. Ayman Abu Laban, M.D. and epidemiologist (public health specialist) who is working on the project.

Abu Laban told the Jordan Times that pregnancy exhausts the nutrients in the body while the foetus is developing in the womb of the mother. He added that she needs enough time to be able to conceive another healthy baby. He said that the mother also needs time to be psychologically and physically ready, and therefore stress-free for another child.

According to the director of HEALTHCOM, Dr. Sima Bahous, birth spacing enables parents to have as many healthy children as they want and allows for at least two years between

each pregnancy.

According to a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report, "breast milk provides babies with proteins, calories, minerals and vitamins in the perfect balance needed to support growth in the early, most vulnerable months of life. Breast milk is also a live substance containing immunological and anti-infective agents that protect against the common infections of infancy. Breast milk is constantly changing, adapting to the specific immunological and nutritional needs of the rapidly growing baby; because breast milk supply is regulated by demand, fully breastfed babies are seldom obese."

"Our main concern with the birth spacing campaign is to improve the health of the mother and child; it does not matter if she has ten children," Bahous said, adding that the project is not interested in limiting the number of children.

Bahous said that it was found that large numbers of mothers suffered from having too many children too soon. She added that statistics show that the infant mortality rate will drop significantly by birth spacing.

According to "Birth Spacing and Child Survival," a report by the faculty of medicine at Columbia University in New York, over 45 per cent of babies born in Jordan are born in less than 24 months after their next older brother or sister. The report

states that 125 of every 1,000 of these babies, more than one in ten, die in infancy.

The study also states that 30 infants in every 1,000, one in 33, of babies born in the country more than 24 months after the birth of their next older brother or sister, die in infancy. Therefore, if parents space the births of their children, the report says that the infant mortality rate will drop by 40 per cent.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Bahous explained that the child spacing campaign which will be accompanied by breast-feeding campaigns and that will go in effect in November, comes after six months of extensive research and field studies throughout the Kingdom.

Bahous, a Ph.D. in communications and development from Indiana University, said that for the first time in Jordan,

there is such a research-oriented project. She stressed that HEALTHCOM is applying the latest up-to-date research methods "whether in the development of strategies or in delivering of messages."

"We did not sit around a table discussing how the campaign should be. We did extensive formative research on the women's awareness, attitudes and practices," Bahous said. She added that the HEALTHCOM team also studied the attitudes of fathers, in-laws, opinion and religious leaders, and the health sectors regarding child spacing and breast-feeding. She said that there was positive support from "almost everybody on these two."

"Based on what we found, we decided on the strategy of training those in the concerned sectors," Bahous said, adding that also based on their findings the

strategy for the broadcast messages will be formulated.

She said that it was found, for example, that a high percentage of the women wanted to see their children having the best education, and wanted to have a happy family. "So the tone of the messages will be very positive, happy and lively," Bahous said.

The campaigns concentrate a great deal on the benefits of breast-feeding which provides the baby with nutrition and immunity, according to Bahous.

The message, to be broadcast on radio and TV, will explain to mothers that infant illnesses would be avoided when they breast-feed exclusively for the first four months. The messages will inform a mother that immediate initiation of breast-feeding is necessary in order for her to increase her milk. The campaign will also try to convince her that she has enough milk to give the child if she eats properly and if she intensifies breast-feeding and does it more frequently.

There will also be some form of cooperation with health workers in hospitals to encourage mothers who have just given birth to breast-feed, according to Abu Laban.

"Some hospitals encourage bottle feeding right after the baby is born and taken away from the mother. We would like to cooperate professionally with health workers in these hospitals to convince them of the necessity of breast-feeding before giving the

baby the bottle, and not to promote the bottle before making sure that the mother cannot breast-feed," Abu Laban told the Jordan Times.

The birth spacing campaign will focus on health benefits for the mother if she leaves a 24 month interim period between her pregnancies, showing her that her body needs time to rebuild itself and informing her about the complications and risks she could face if she did not allow herself that time. There would also be messages directed towards younger married women suggesting that they do not get pregnant before 19.

"Our research identified that in low-income and rural areas a large number of girls marry at the age of 15 and 16. We will inform them that it is healthier to have babies after they are 19 when their bodies are fully developed," Bahous explained.

The project director indicated that the team was in the process of writing the scripts for television campaigns, which will exclude showing any methods of contraception.

"Once the scripts are written for the media, we will take the storyboards (drawings of spots to be filmed) and recorded messages to women in different areas of the Kingdom and ask them what they think and if they can relate, and so on. Based on their response, we will alter the scripts accordingly," Bahous said, calling it a "democracy of communication where the media is (tailored)

according to the audience's taste."

She continued that after the campaigns were televised and broadcast on radio, another field survey would be conducted to see whether they relate to the messages.

Bahous said that this was not just a media project, but also a "social marketing" project, where a certain social campaign is being marketed through the media.

"Along with the messages that will go on the air, there is an agreement with the television and radio that they will cooperate during family, religious and health programmes to discuss breast-feeding and child spacing," Bahous said, adding that there will also be cooperation in this field with newspapers.

Besides extensive media campaigns, the project — which is jointly funded by the NHF and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at \$500,000 — will also include interpersonal communication campaigns and training programmes with health providers of the Health Ministry's Mother and Child Care Centres (MCHs) and in the private sector.

The two-year campaign, jointly implemented by NHF and the Washington-based Academy for Educational Development will go on the air in November for three months, and will phase out for three months to evaluate its impact on the target audience. A new campaign will be implemented for another three

months, and so on, for two years.

"One of the basic objectives here is to institutionalise the project. To create a core team who would be able to carry out any such communications project. And to do that we have to have multi-sectoral participation and hold workshops on different steps of methodology to follow by inviting members from the relevant sectors," Bahous said.

She added that with the core team from different sectors, "we can call on the expertise of the team to work together on future projects."

Bahous said that there would be a breast-feeding seminar in October in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Academy for Educational Development, USAID and private sector institutions. There would be experts from Jordan and abroad speaking on the latest methods of breast-feeding and its advantages.

She added that there would also be three seminars held with the Ministry of Health on pregnancy risks that would discuss the dangers of too many pregnancies in too little time.

"Besides Amman, these three seminars will also be held in Irbid and in the south to reach all medical professionals throughout the Kingdom," she said.

"We will try our best to positively convince a mother to breast-feed her babies and to space her pregnancies. But in the end it is up to her whether she wants to do that or not," Bahous concluded.



JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Koran
16:20 Programme review
16:25 Cartoons and children's programmes

PROGRAMME TWO

17:10 Programme on animal life
17:35 Scientific programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:10 Arabic series local
18:30 Local programme
19:00 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Programme review
21:00 Cultural programme
21:30 Monday Forum
22:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Monday Forum (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres
18:30 Rue cannot
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Bicycle Safety
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 Eternity at the Door
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "The Glen Miller Story"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 774111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 News in French
10:00 Good Vibrations
10:30 Readings
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Pop Session Contd.
13:00 News Bulletin
13:30 News in Arabic
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19:30 Newsdesk

PROGRAMME FIVE

07:00 Newsdesk
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Newsdesk
08:30 Newsdesk
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18:00 Newsdesk
18:30 Newsdesk
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Newsdesk

WORLDNET

(At the American Cultural Centre)

8:00 America Today
11:00 Newsline
12:00 Hour USA
13:00 America Today
14:00 Hour USA
15:00 Worldnet Dialogue: Privatization

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Where Angels Fear to Tread 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Waveguide 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:45 Recording of the Week 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Film of the Book 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 The Cross and the Crescent 11:00 World News 11:05 Reflections 11:15 Where Angels Fear to Tread 11:30 Anything Goes 12:00 World News 12:05 Sports Press Review 12:15 Good Books 12:30 News 12:35 World News 12:40 Sports World 12:45 News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 Peetles' Choice 13:00 Film of the Book 13:30 The Vintage Chan Show 14:00 World News 14:05 News About Britain 14:15 Sportsworld 14:30 The Ken Bruce Show 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Brain of Britain 15:30 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:05 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Recording of the Week 17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News 17:45 The Third Policeman 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 Film of the Book 18:45 Grahame-Smith - The Early Years 19:00 World News 19:05

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 08:50 Newsline 09:10 Newsline 09:30 Magazine Show 09:40 News 10:00 Focus 10:30 Special English News & Features 10:50 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 Magazine Show 11:40 News 12:00 Focus 12:30 Special English News & Features 12:50 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 Magazine Show 13:40 News 14:00 Focus 14:30 Special English News & Features 14:50 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 Magazine Show 15:40 News 16:00 Focus 16:30 Special English News & Features 16:50 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Magazine Show 17:40 News 18:00 Focus 18:30 Special English News & Features 18:50 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine Show 19:40 News 20:00 Focus 20:30 Special English News & Features 20:50 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 Magazine Show 21:40 News 22:00 Focus 22:30 Special English News & Features 22:50 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 Magazine Show 23:40 News 24:00 Focus 24:30 Special English News & Features 24:50 News 25:10 Newsline 25:30 Magazine Show 25:40 News 26:00 Focus 26:30 Special English News & Features 26:50 News 27:10 Newsline 27:30 Magazine Show 27:40 News 28:00 Focus 28:30 Special English News & Features 28:50 News 29:10 Newsline 29:30 Magazine Show 29:40 News 30:00 Focus 30:30 Special English News & Features 30:50 News 31:10 Newsline 31:30 Magazine Show 31:40 News 32:00 Focus 32:30 Special English News & Features 32:50 News 33:10 Newsline 33:30 Magazine Show 33:40 News 34:00 Focus 34:30 Special English News & Features 34:50 News 35:10 Newsline 35:30 Magazine Show 35:40 News 36:00 Focus 36:30 Special English News & Features 36:50 News 37:10 Newsline 37:30 Magazine Show 37:40 News 38:00 Focus 38:30 Special English News & Features 38:50 News 39:10 Newsline 39:30 Magazine Show 39:40 News 40:00 Focus 40:30 Special English News & Features 40:50 News 41:10 Newsline 41:30 Magazine Show 41:40 News 42:00 Focus 42:30 Special English News & Features 42:50 News 43:10 Newsline 43:30 Magazine Show 43:40 News 44:00 Focus 44:30 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Show 135:40 News 136:00 Focus 136:30 Special English News & Features 136:50 News 137:10 Newsline 137:30 Magazine Show 137:40 News 138:00 Focus 138:30 Special English News & Features 138:50 News 139:10 Newsline 139:30 Magazine Show 139:40 News 140:00 Focus 140:30 Special English News & Features 140:50 News 141:10 Newsline 141:30 Magazine Show 141:40 News 142:00 Focus 142:30 Special English News & Features 142:50 News 143:10 Newsline 143:30 Magazine Show 143:40 News 144:00 Focus 144:30 Special English News & Features 144:50 News 145:10 Newsline 145:30 Magazine Show 145:40 News 146:00 Focus 146:30 Special English News & Features 146:50 News 147:10 Newsline 147:30 Magazine Show 147:40 News 148:00 Focus 148:30 Special English News & Features 148:50 News 149:10 Newsline 149:30 Magazine Show 149:40 News 150:00 Focus 150:30 Special English News & Features 150:50 News 151:10 Newsline 151:30 Magazine Show 151:40 News 152:00 Focus 152:30 Special English News & Features 152:50 News 153:10 Newsline 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171:10 Newsline 171:30 Magazine Show 171:40 News 172:00 Focus 172:30 Special English News & Features 172:50 News 173:10 Newsline 173:30 Magazine Show 173:40 News 174:00 Focus 174:30 Special English News & Features 174:50 News 175:10 Newsline 175:30 Magazine Show 175:40 News 176:00 Focus 176:30 Special English News & Features 176:50 News 177:10 Newsline 177:30 Magazine Show 177:40 News 178:00 Focus 178:30 Special English News & Features 178:50 News 179:10 Newsline 179:30 Magazine Show 179:40 News 180:00 Focus 180:30 Special English News & Features 180:50 News 181:10 Newsline 181:30 Magazine Show 181:40 News 182:00 Focus 182:30 Special English News & Features 182:50 News 183:10 Newsline 183:30 Magazine Show 183:40 News 184:00 Focus 184:30 Special English News & Features 184:50 News 185:10 Newsline 185:30 Magazine Show 185:40 News 186:00 Focus 186:30 Special English News & Features 186:50 News 187:10 Newsline 187:30 Magazine Show 187:40 News 188:00 Focus 188:30 Special English News & 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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday addresses Royal War College graduates at the Royal Scientific Society

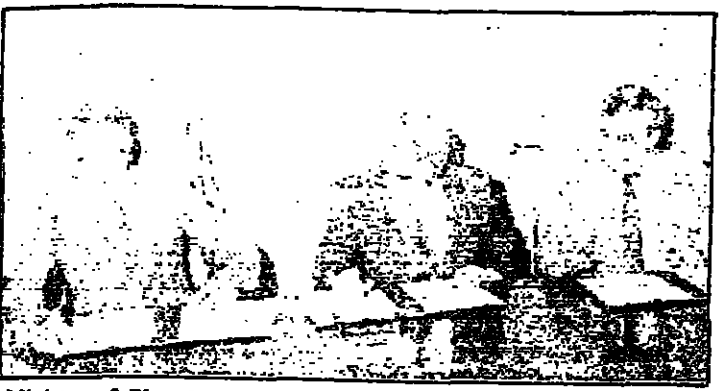
Prince Hassan explains RSS role to army officers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, met at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Sunday with graduates of the Royal War College who Saturday received their diplomas from His Majesty King Hussein.

Prince Hassan spoke on the role of the RSS's Council of Technology in serving the Jordanian community in education, health and other fields.

Prince Hassan said Jordan has come a long way in promoting social services, but more work needs to be carried out in the field of unemployment social studies and general services.

Prince Hassan later answered questions put to him by graduates.



Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan (center), U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth (left) and USAID Director Lewis Reade (right) sign an agreement at the Ministry of Planning by which USAID grants Jordan \$5 million for the development of agricultural marketing (Petra photo)

USAID grants Jordan \$5 million to develop agricultural marketing

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided initial funding of \$2.5 million for an agricultural marketing development project. The funds will assist the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) to improve the efficiency of the domestic and export marketing system for fruits and vegetables.

With project assistance, AMO will establish a domestic marketing information system, develop a system of grades and standards, gather and disseminate export market intelligence, as well as conduct studies and analyses aimed at identifying and removing marketing constraints.

Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth and USAID Director Lewis Reade signed an agreement for the 5-year, \$5 million project Sunday.

The USAID grant will fund technical assistance, training, and market research, including the purchase of computers and vehicles needed to carry out these activities. With better market information, and with produce that meets market standards for quality, Jordanian producers and exporters will be able to exploit profitable opportunities in Jordan and abroad.

Earlier this year, USAID sponsored both an agricultural marketing policy workshop in Amman as well as training and observation tours for Jordanian producers and exporters to key EEC markets. All these activities are designed to support a thriving agricultural sector that competes favourably in local markets, in traditional markets in the Gulf and the region, and in expanded markets abroad.

Jordan, Yugoslavia start aviation talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Yugoslavia Sunday opened talks here designed to promote bilateral cooperation in air transport and trade exchange.

Civil Aviation Authority Director General Mahmoud Bulge led Jordan's team at the talks while Vladimir Likich, director of Yugoslavia's Civil Aviation Authority led his country's team.

The Yugoslav delegation, which arrived here Saturday evening, will discuss the prospect of promoting air transport through the national airlines of Jordan and Yugoslavia, and means of increasing the volume of trade between them, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

3 killed, 2 injured in road accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three people were killed and two others were injured in a road accident Saturday. A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the accident involved a taxi which overturned after the driver had lost control of it along the Maan-Anaba road.

The car's driver, Ayesha Ibrahim, was among the dead, the report said.

The paper also reported the injury of 28 other people in a variety of accidents and incidents which occurred in Jordan in the previous 48 hours.

President Mubarak receives Khatib

Jordan, Egypt hold talks on energy, science

ALEXANDRIA (Petra, J.T.) — Egyptian President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak received here Sunday Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib to review Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in energy-related affairs.

Mubarak and Khatib discussed linking the Jordanian and Egyptian national grids, which is scheduled to take place in the coming years.

The meeting was attended by the Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Egypt.

Khatib arrived in Cairo Saturday on a visit, expected to last several days, during which he will hold meetings with a number of Egyptian ministers and officials to discuss bilateral cooperation in energy, electricity and scientific research.

Meanwhile, commercial attaché at the Jordanian embassy in Cairo Mohammad Alawneh met here Sunday with Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Yusra Mustafa to discuss subjects connected with bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Alawneh said after the meeting that an agreement was reached on setting up a Jordanian trade fair in Cairo in December to implement a protocol signed by the two countries to promote the exchange of trade.

He said he discussed with the minister a number of issues related to Jordan's exports of glass and auto-filters to Egypt.

By agreement of the prime ministers of Egypt and Jordan in Amman, Jordan will sell Egypt cement, raw materials for detergents, wool and glass in exchange for Egyptian cotton, aluminium, rice, clothes and ammonia nitrate.

The trade deal, which will take place this year, will amount to \$110 million. The two sides agreed to raise the volume of trade between them to \$350 million in the coming year.

UNRWA pledges to maintain services for refugees in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will not introduce changes that could adversely affect educational or health services offered to Palestinian refugees living in Jordan, in light of Jordan's recent decision to sever legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank, according to Director General of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry Ahmad Qatanani.

Qatanani made the statement upon returning to Amman from Vienna after taking part in UNRWA's advisory commission meeting.

The meeting in Vienna, he said, was attended by representatives of Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees, including Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The commission also studied changes introduced by the Ministry of Education designed to spread compulsory education over 10 rather than nine years of schooling as of the present scholastic year.

The Jordanian delegation called on UNRWA to take measures

in harmony with these changes in its schools on the East Bank and in harmony with the Kingdom's new measures to overhaul the national educational system, Qatanani said.

UNRWA is expected to be able to cope with the growing needs of refugees in all fields of its operations, Qatanani added.

In his speech to the commission, Qatanani called on UNRWA to resume its full services to the refugees and to make provisions for better health and educational facilities.

Top Japanese aid official inspects UNRWA's training centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tomoya Kawamura, executive director at the headquarters of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Tokyo, Sunday visited UNRWA's Wadi Seer Training Centre (WSTC) a school which provides vocational training for refugee children in Jordan.

Kawamura inspected JICA's donations of training equipment which included vehicles, machines and tools worth \$625,000, UNRWA said.

JICA has recently donated

additional training equipment and tools worth \$65,000 which will be delivered to the centre soon.

All equipment donated is earmarked for the automobile and diesel courses.

Apart from these donations, JICA has two experts and one coordinator who are involved in upgrading the level of training at the centre. Towards the end, JICA has provided training scholarships in Japan for the principal of the centre and eight of its

instructors.

During his visit to WSTC, Kawamura was accompanied by UNRWA's Jordan Field Director Ele Saaf and senior UNRWA officials who expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by Japan on behalf of Palestine refugees.

Japan, the second largest single contributor to UNRWA, last year also made a donation of \$1,000,000 for constructing two school buildings for refugee children in Jerash camp.

VTC graduates fifth class in Zarqa

ZARQA (J.T.) — The Vocational Training Centre at Al Hashimieh town near Zarqa Sunday graduated its fifth class of students who completed training courses in seven different trades.

Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Burhan Shraideh said in a speech that the VTC last year offered training to 11,000 young people of whom 2,160 were apprentices at vocational training centres.

The VTC centres, he said, have now opened the door for all men and women wishing to acquire free-of-charge training in various fields to help them get jobs in the local market.

The Hashimieh centre's director said the centre has expanded its services beyond training by allowing its trainees to be involved in production work in plumbing, carpentry and electricity.

The centre's trainees last year produced commodities worth JD 17,000 under the supervision of their instructors, the director said.

Shraideh distributed diplomas to the 400 graduates who completed courses in electricity, auto-mechanics, metal work, and general maintenance.

Occupational safety In Amman, the Ministry of Labour Sunday opened an educational course for workers' supervisors, the fifth of its kind to be organised by the ministry to orient participants on industrial security, occupational safety and health safety in factories and places of work.

Sixteen supervisors are taking part in the 10-day training course in which they will hear lectures, do practical work related to occupational safety and learn about social security laws covering occupational injuries.

The participants later will tour a number of industrial organisations and acquaint themselves with equipment used there to protect workers.

Hammouri inspects archaeological institutions

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri Sunday visited Irbid and inspected the Department of Antiquities and its museum where he heard a briefing on archaeological sites and efforts to preserve artefacts.

Later, the minister went to

Yarmouk University and met with its President Mohammad Hamdan with whom he discussed the ministry's cooperation with the university in the field of antiquities and archaeological excavations.

The minister also went to the university's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, which was established with assistance from the Department of Antiquities in Amman and with technical help from the West German government.

Hammouri later visited the archaeological site of Zerahon where excavation is going on in cooperation with a West German team to unearth an ancient city dating back to the early bronze age in the third millennium B.C.

The minister was accompanied on the tour by Department of Antiquities Director General Adnan Al Hadidi.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday bids farewell to Jordan's second relief mission to the Sudan at Marka airport (Petra photo)

Second relief mission leaves for the Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday dispatched to Sudan its second relief mission, comprising 13 doctors, technicians, a number of specialists and civil defence men. The shipment also carried medical equipment, water purification materials and other relief supplies.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who saw off the mission, said it was sent upon directives by His Majesty King Hussein, who ordered that every thing possible be done to alleviate the ordeal of the Sudanese people, following the floods that ravaged their country.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia and countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council are among the main Arab countries that are sending relief supplies and other assistance to Sudan.

Arab supplies sent so far constitute nearly 60 per cent of the total assistance received by the Arab-African country, Prince Hassan said.

He said he will discuss the prospect of setting up an international relief committee or an Arab international commission to organise and channel assistance to Sudan with the U.N. secretary general.

The current aid reaching Sudan, Prince Hassan noted, is being sent on a contingency plan designed to help resettle displaced people and help them overcome the present difficulties.

He called on Arab and Islamic countries to concentrate their efforts and work out a long-term plan for the development of Sudan.

Prince Hassan paid tribute to the Jordanian National Committee for Solidarity with the Sudanese People and the volunteers being sent to offer assistance.

He wished the current mission success.

Sudan's Ambassador to Jordan Radwan Mahjoub, who was present at the airport to see off the mission, briefed Prince Hassan on the latest developments in Sudan where nearly 1.5 million people have been displaced.

He said the Nile River water continues to rise and that in the coming two weeks it could reach a level not witnessed since 1946.

Mahjoub said Jordan's relief missions will establish a permanent base near Khartoum to offer relief aid to up to 250,000 inhabitants.

The new mission will carry out vaccination campaigns against infectious diseases such as malaria, typhoid and dysentery, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to Petra, the new mission will operate from a base within a huge camp located 18 kilometres away from Khartoum.

Last Saturday the first shipment of relief supplies was sent to Sudan. An official statement said they were paid for by Crown Prince Hassan, chairman of the Jordanian National Committee for Solidarity with the Sudanese People.

The committee, whose members were present to bid farewell to the mission, continues a campaign to raise contributions for the Sudanese People.

FAREWELL: Foreign Minister Taher Masri (standing right) Sunday held a luncheon banquet at the Plaza Hotel in honour of the outgoing Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh, whose tour of duty in Jordan expired. Masri praised the efforts made by Wahbeh to promote bilateral cooperation and to strengthen relations in all fields between Jordan and Egypt. Masri presented the ambassador with a token gift. The party was attended by a number of diplomatic corps members and senior Foreign Ministry officials.



Triplets.. after 12 years of infertility

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — A Jordanian woman from Manara village near Mafraq has given birth to triplets following 12 years of futile attempts to conceive, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily Sunday.

The report quoted Dr. Lutfi Ulayyan, a gynaecologist who supervised the woman's year-long treatment, as saying that the mother delivered one of the triplets, a girl, in her village some 40 kilometres away from Mafraq, but had to be carried to hospital to deliver the other two boys.

He said the triplets averaged 1,750 to 2,450 grammes in weight and that mother and babies were in good health.

Cabinet okays cultural agreement with South Korea

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Sunday announced its endorsement of an executive programme for a cultural cooperation agreement with South Korea.

The agreement aims to bolster bilateral cooperation in cultural fields over the coming few years.

The cabinet Saturday evening announced it discussed in detail provisions of a new draft education law and said further meetings will be held to finalise the discussion.

The law was enacted in implementation of resolutions by the First National Educational Conference, held last September under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

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WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- Arabic calligraphy and art exhibition by Faisal Ashour at the Housing Bank Complex.
- Painting exhibition by Colombian artist Maria Amparo Valencia at the Alfa Art Gallery.
- Urban Development Corporation exhibition showing samples of the corporation's development projects in Zarqa.

FILMS

- A comedy entitled "She Stoops to Conquer," 7.30 p.m. at the British Council.

LECTURE

- By the Arab poet Farouq Shoushab, entitled "The Arab Theatre and the Palestinian Concern," at 6:00 p.m. at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SIERRA LEONE MINISTERS: The ministers of justice and transport in Sierra Leone arrived in Amman Sunday on a several-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations. The transport minister will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Khaled Haj Hassan on cooperation in the field of air transport. The two ministers and the accompanying delegations were received by Haj Hassan and senior Jordanian officials.

REHABILITATION: The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday invited representatives of social and voluntary organisations in the Kingdom to the Swaga reformatory and rehabilitation centre where they inspected different sections and witnessed the various activities carried out by prison inmates. The centre's director briefed the visitors on these activities and said improvements have been introduced for the benefit of inmates in implementation of a general development programme started in 1976. The programme aims at helping inmates adapt to the needs of life after serving their sentences in prison.

CONVICTED: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad Shihadeh to five years imprisonment and a fine of JD 500 after convicting him of possessing hashish.

COMMITTEE: Zarqa Governor Eid Qatameh Sunday formed a special committee to follow on the implementation of the sewerage and sanitary disposal projects in Ghuweirich and Al Hussein residential areas. Qatameh voiced hope that the new committee would remedy the situation caused by the excavations, and report on the situation to the governorate.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOOR AL HUSSEIN

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory

presents

The Detroit Chamber Players

in concert

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 31, 1988
Seven Hills Restaurant - Amman National Park - Airport Road

Dinner will be served after the Concert.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in Jordan by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جوردين تيمز يومية عربية مستقلة تصدر من عمان بتاريخ 29 آب 1975

Responsible Editor:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 666265-2

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Burying the myth

IN HIS speech to the graduates of the Royal War College Saturday, His Majesty the King underscored again in clear terms that Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was motivated solely by the national Jordanian decision to enhance the momentum of the Palestinian struggle. By reaffirming that Jordan is not Palestine, and that Palestine is not Jordan, His Majesty helps bury the myth that the Palestine problem can be resolved at Amman's expense, and away from Palestinian territory. It was this absurd myth which persisted in the minds of Israelis, and some of their ardent and blind supporters, and that proved to be the principal stumbling block for so long in the path of a just and permanent resolution of the Palestinian case.

In this context, the King paid unwavering and special tribute to the Palestinian uprising, which erupted in December last year. He described it as the catalyst that reactivated the Palestinians' struggle for their national rights, a struggle which has placed the Palestinian people on par with all the other peoples who have struggled against colonialism and occupation. What remains to be seen is how the international community will react to the Jordanian joint against stalemate and paralysis in the Middle East. Israel's fossilized attitude towards the Palestinians and their legitimate cause has yet to recover from the shock dealt them by Jordan. Perhaps it would begin to dawn on them after more than four decades that their principal interlocutor has to be the Palestinians, and no one else, should they wish a permanent solution to their conflict with the Arab World. The ball is now clearly in their court, and how and when they respond will help determine the course of future developments in the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS



Rabah — Al Ra'i

Al Ra'i: Important address

IN his important political address at the graduation of officers from the Royal War College, His Majesty King Hussein emphasized two significant points: Jordan's firm stand with regard to international and regional issues and the Kingdom's success in rallying world-wide support for the idea of an international peace conference to solve the Middle East problem. King Hussein said the improvement in relations between the two superpowers has paved the way for the peace process between Iran and Iraq, and could be exploited to serve the other Arab and Islamic causes. He said Jordan will honour its national commitments, and will continue to exercise its responsible role in the international arena in supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people. Jordan, the monarch pointed out, is determined to be a full partner in the peace-making process in its capacity as a main party in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and will maintain endeavours at all fronts to arrive at a lasting and comprehensive settlement. The King noted that Jordan's decision to sever links with the West Bank served as a new impetus for the uprising, and helped to strengthen the PLO's status and the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom.

Al Dustour: Opening vast avenues

HIS Majesty King Hussein has paid tribute to the Palestinian people's uprising which, he said, has succeeded in winning over world public opinion and focusing the international community's attention on the plight of the oppressed people of Palestine. King Hussein said improvement in East-West relations and the recent developments on the international scene have been favourable, helping to end the Gulf war and solving the Afghanistan issue, and has opened the way for major powers' strong interest in the Middle East problem. The King told a graduation ceremony at the Royal War College that he hoped the current negotiations to end the Iran-Iraq war would pave the way for similar positive steps leading to an end of the Arab-Israeli conflict. King Hussein said Jordan was a positive step in contributing to the uprising in the West Bank and has opened vast avenues for Palestinian action inside and outside the occupied lands.

Sawt Al Shaab: Uphold principles

HIS Majesty King Hussein Saturday addressed graduates from the Royal War College, urging them to uphold the principles and objectives of the Great Arab Revolt with determination and resolve. He said Jordan, in implementation of these principles, will maintain the process of serving Arab and Islamic causes, and has succeeded in its recent efforts to end the Afghan crisis and supported Iraq in seeking peace with its Muslim neighbour. Jordan believes in peace based on justice, and will continue its efforts world-wide to seek justice for the Palestinian people who have long been subjected to oppression. Jordan, the monarch said, will continue to stand by the Palestinians in their struggle until they achieve their national aspirations and free their soil from occupation. He said Jordan's recent decision to sever legal links with the West Bank was an essential step to give the uprising further momentum and the PLO a stronger status in advocating the rights of the Palestinians.

Cipollone vs. Cigarettes

By Waleed Sadi

THE celebrated case of Cipollone versus Chesterfields Cigarette Company which made legal history early this summer in Canada is indeed a milestone in legal jurisprudence as well as a landmark in the health and economic responsibility of manufacturers to their consumers. Granted that the litigation between Rose Cipollone, who died of lung cancer, and several leading American cigarette companies neither resolved all the relevant legal issues nor constituted a clear victory for either the plaintiff or the defendant. Yet there was sufficient legal precedent created by that case to constitute a valuable beachhead on the front against cigarettes and their manufacturers. The limited success achieved by the estate of the deceased Rose Cipollone when the court awarded her \$400,000 against the makers of Chesterfields Cigarette Company still constituted the first breakthrough ever against any cigarette company for violating its implied promise that the cigarettes offered to the public were safe and "just what the doctor ordered." It will be recalled that the various cigarette companies alleged the safety of tobacco prior to 1964 when the U.S. surgeon-general issued his celebrated report stating that smoking cigarettes causes cancer over and above the sundry other diseases they cause to Homo sapiens.

The interesting part about the Cipollone vs. American cigarette companies was that the court viewed the year of 1964 as the dividing line in litigation arising from cigarette smoking because that was the year when smokers allegedly had no further excuse to claim innocence and lack of knowledge about the dangers inherent in cigarette smoking. Each pack of cigarettes had henceforth printed on its side the clear warning that smoking cigarettes causes cancer of the lungs and contributes to heart diseases. It was thus the pre-1964 era which constituted the basis for the successful litigations against Chesterfields Cigarette Company because it was the period when manufacturers of cigarettes erroneously and deceitfully maintained that their products were safe for consumption.

But what about the fact that tobacco is as addictive as heroin and that for smokers who started the ordeal of smoking prior to the 1964 warnings had become too addictive to tobacco to be able to kick the

habit even when they were duly served with legal and health notices that cigarettes were too harmful to their health.

Now we can be sure that there will be flurry of litigations against cigarette companies worldwide including our country. The Cipollone case is only the initial yardstick for various justice systems to take judicial notice of it. The other litigations that will surely follow are bound to have additional implications for all countries which manufacture cigarettes and, I dare say, allow the sale and consumption of cigarettes. What interests me as a lawyer and columnist is the firm and undisputed medical disclosures that cigarettes are too detrimental to human health. The question that comes to my mind and which I would like to address to our health authorities and government is the following: Since the government bravely and honourably acts to take off the shelves in the market place all products which are harmful to the health of consumers including bad foods, expired medications and unhygienic water, by what right and on the basis of what logic does it allow the sale and consumption of cigarettes? We all know now that there is a direct link between lung cancer and tobacco. If there were products on the Jordanian market which have been established to cause cancer, would the government still condone their sale and consumption even when there are warnings attached to them? I should think not if we wish to be logical with one another and fair to our public. If the rationale behind the government's acceptance of the tobacco trade is based on the argument that the public is adequately warned, then I have the right and duty to ask: Would the government condone the sale of expired medication or foodstuffs since the public is also warned about their expiration?

Of course no country in the world has dared to go as far as not allowing the manufacture, sale and consumption of cigarettes. But the trend is clearly going that direction. Why not have Jordan be the pioneer country in the world which would take this bold and sensible step? Why should the small countries always stay behind and continue to be lead instead of becoming leaders of causes that are for the good of

mankind? It is a known fact that developing countries have become the dumping grounds for cigarettes manufacturers which are faced with diminishing domestic market for their proven harmful products. The peoples of the developing countries are by and large unsuspecting peoples and no amount of written caveats and warnings are going to bail them out of the developed world's conspiracy against their better interest.

Certainly the price tag for abolishing the manufacture, sale and consumption of cigarettes in Jordan will be formidable. Our Jordanian companies which simply followed the footsteps of foreign cigarette companies to save us hard currency and create jobs for our people deserve our help. They clearly need to be rescued from the massive dislocations that would ensue when we put into effect such a policy. As a citizen, I would support any national effort to assist our cigarette companies to reconstitute themselves so as to become the manufacturers of products that are beneficial to the health of our people.

Of course there would be voices among us who would maintain that abolishing cigarettes would simply repeat the heroin experience and instead of eliminating cigarettes, we would encourage the creation of a flourishing mammoth black market for cigarettes. This is true and no one can deny the prospect of creating a lavish black market if and when he disallow them in toto. But such a development need not and should not stop us from taking bold steps to curtail their availability. If there are people who are willing to go to the extent of seeking their cigarettes through the black market, be it. The majority of our people would still be discouraged from pursuing this bad habit and our youngsters, will also find it hard to start this awful habit in the first place. Besides, have we advocated the policy of legalising heroin simply because that would eliminate its black market? And in case you wonder, the writer is a non-smoker who once smoked. Therefore, I am biased but biased in the right direction. I just hate to see a rise of cancer and heart diseases among our people. We have enough problems as it is.

Challenge of our changing climate

SUDAN'S flood disaster, affecting at least two million people, provides the most traumatic evidence so far this year of a northward shift in the tropical rain belt. And it focuses attention on the larger question: Are we witnessing a global climatic change which could have profound effects on our environment? A growing body of international scientific opinion believes the answer is "yes", and some world leaders have already warned about the possible impact of such a change.

According to Norway's Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the consequences could be more drastic for mankind than any other challenge apart from nuclear war. And an eminent Harvard professor, Michael McElroy, told a Toronto conference recently that there was "no way of turning the clock back."

There had to be a new sense of global responsibility, a deeper understanding of the Earth's life-support system, he said. Some hard choices would have to be made to protect the atmosphere, a global resource that transcended national and parochial interests. Experts say the evidence is clear that mankind is itself responsible for altering the balance of nature. The relationship between the atmosphere and biosphere, the soils and upper oceanic layers, together with the deep sea and sediments, is delicately coordinated. It is a system that has evolved over more than a billion years.

Yet in just a few centuries man's increasingly sophisticated technology has thrown the system out of gear. Man's culpability has been highlighted in the last three years by report of an extending hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica, causing a "greenhouse effect" on the world climate.

The hole, now said to cover around ten per cent of the southern hemisphere, has caused enough concern to generate urgent consideration of restrictions on world use of chlorofluorocarbons. These are the chemicals that provide the propulsion power in millions of ordinary household spray-cans.

Moreover, increased emissions of man-made gases are now held responsible by many scientists for

the recorded increases in average world temperatures of a half a degree celsius since around 1850.

At first glance not an ominous phenomenon, perhaps, especially when individual years have produced conflicting regional variations in the both temperature and rainfall. But the question now is, has the process speeded up?

In the last 40 years average annual rainfall has steadily risen in higher northerly latitudes and correspondingly decreased in the southern hemisphere.

The trend seems to have been coincidentally emphasised this year, with extremely high temperatures along a line from the Mediterranean to China, and some northern countries experiencing unprecedented rainfall. Based on world averages, the four hottest of the past 100 years have all been in the 1980s, with last year breaking scientific records.

Chlorofluorocarbons are only the modern manifestation of an old problem. The biggest single waste product of contemporary society is the carbon dioxide from burned fossil fuels.

This will account for around five billion tonnes of carbon this

year alone. Taking current estimates of fossil fuel reserves at about four million tonnes of carbon, and assuming that half of these stocks would be used over the next century, it has been calculated that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will rise to about three times the current levels.

Carbon dioxide is not the only "villain". Rising methane gas also plays a role in increasing the "greenhouse effect."

Thus agriculture as well as industry would appear to be contributing to climate change, for methane emission is associated with the biology of cattle, the bacteria of paddy fields, and with burning vegetation as land is cleared for new crops.

Theoretically, the solution to the problem seems simple and obvious. The world community must take steps to ensure the early elimination of almost all industrial carbon emissions, and eventually to curtail drastically the use of fossil fuels.

But this would entail material sacrifices, including foregoing some of the benefits of modern technology — Lion Features.

Path to peace, a long road ahead

By Hanns Neuerbourg

The Associated Press

TEHRAN — Repairing the ravages of war and relations with Iraq will be a long, tedious process in which much depends on the political fortunes of the man responsible for the Iran's more conciliatory policy.

The effort begins when peace negotiations open in Geneva Thursday, five days after a U.N.-sponsored truce took effect in the 8-year-old conflict, which cost up to 1 million lives and hundreds of billions of dollars.

At centre stage is Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of Iran's parliament, who also became armed forces commander a month before Iran accepted a U.N. ceasefire resolution July 18. The Security Council passed Resolution 598 unanimously a year earlier and Iraq agreed to it, but Iran had not.

Rafsanjani, 54, has the public backing of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the 87-year-old patriarch whose fundamentalist Muslim revolution overthrew the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in February 1979.

"Virtually everything depends on whether Rafsanjani, a pragmatist, will be able to control the hardliners," said a West European diplomat, who spoke privately as did all others interviewed during a 10-day visit to Iran. "Let us hope that Khomeini will be around long enough to allow him to get really settled."

Khomeini has designated Ayatollah Hussain Ali Montazeri his successor, but a power struggle began some time ago.

The health of the aging imam, the religious title Iranians use when referring to Khomeini, became a recurring subject of speculation almost immediately after the revolution.

Huge tasks

"I heard him rumoured terminally ill ever since I was assigned to Tehran three years ago," another diplomat said, "but when I last saw him a few months ago, he seemed quite all right to me. He spoke coherently without text for 15 minutes. I am not sure many much younger public figures in my country are able to do likewise."

Huge tasks confront the leadership.

Three years ago, the official Iranian assessment of war damage already was the equivalent of 350 billion dollars. Last week, the Tehran newspaper Kayhan estimated losses to date at 600 billion dollars, more than all the money Iran's oil exports have earned since they began.

Western analysts say two-thirds

of Iranian industry is idle, lacking trained management, spare parts and the necessary semi-finished products. Of 77 "major revolutionary projects" in all branches of industry announced nine years ago, only four have survived in official plans.

Daily blackouts illustrate the effect of Iraqi air raids on power stations. Oil refineries have been so badly damaged that one-third of the petroleum products Iran now consumes must be imported.

Oil output was put officially at 2.2 million barrels a day in March-June, little more than one-third the level of a decade ago, and full production probably would not exceed 3.3 million.

Iranian officials hope quota enforcement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will bolster prices, but diplomats say Iraq, which ran up an estimated 100 billion dollars in foreign debt during the war, may continue to ignore the quotas.

Foreign investment

Agricultural output in Iran also suffered and food imports now cost 2 billion dollars a year, equivalent to almost a third of oil revenue.

Prospects of reducing the bill are not good because the population grew from 38 million to 50 million in the decade ending in 1986. The birth rate of 3.5 per cent is among the world's highest.

Random interviews suggest average Iranians hope for foreign investment. "They are hungry for our market," a student about several high-level foreign trade delegations that visited the country recently.

Iran's foreign debt is roughly balanced by its 4 billion dollars in foreign exchange reserves and there is no record of a contract not having been fulfilled, according to Western trade attaches. "Iranians are very credit-worthy," one said.

There is no indication so far that the government wants to borrow.

After a two-day visit to Tehran, Foreign Minister Tom Hayden of Australia said: "No one has asked us for aid. These people have run their economy prudently. They are looking forward to maintaining self-sufficiency and national respect and confidence."

A senior European diplomat said: "Recovery will not be feasible without some kind of open-door trade policy." He added that the war's end may not free much capital because of the need to modernise and replenish the military arsenal.

Normalising relations with Washington will take time, diplomats agree.

Burma's leaders may go with a bang

By David Storey

Reuters

BANGKOK — The uprising against Burma's leaders has built up such momentum they may be robbed of the chance of dignified retreat, diplomats said.

As hundreds of thousands of jubilant protesters swarmed through cities and towns and public administration collapsed, even the few weeks the leaders were trying to buy seemed too long.

"Things are moving faster than anyone ever thought and the timetable laid down by Maung Maung may have to be scrapped," a Western ambassador said.

The proposal by Maung Maung, a 63-year-old former judge who last week became Burma's third leader in a month, is for an emergency party congress on Sept. 12 to agree on a referendum on whether to end 26 years of one-party rule.

It would be the first time a civilian single-party state had been overthrown peacefully in favour of multi-party democracy, diplomats said.

Many diplomats and Burmese contacted from Bangkok had reservations about an immediate switch from the rigid control of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) into uncharted political territory.

But, as with popular move-

ments against restrictive political systems elsewhere, including Poland in 1980 and the Philippines in 1986, caution plays no part in the opposition's thinking.

"They think they have won half the battle, that the party is now dead. Now they want to bury the constitution," another diplomat said. Under the 1974 constitution the BSPP is the only legitimate political force.

Daughter of hero

Demonstrators on the streets ridiculed the idea of a referendum, saying the mass rallies embracing workers, students, government employees, doctors, teachers, Buddhist monks and Muslim leaders, provided the people's answer.

To judge from exuberant speeches made from makeshift bamboo-pole podiums and posters plastered on the red brick walls of the old capital, there has been little time for reflection on what might replace the BSPP.

Two figures have emerged as rallying points — prominent dissident Aung Gyi and Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of revered national hero Aung San.

Aung Gyi, released from jail Thursday with other political detainees, is a 70-year-old retired brigadier who published five open letters in the last year con-

demning atrocities and incompetence under the 26-year government of General Ne Win, who stepped down last month.

He was given a tumultuous reception when he addressed a big rally in the working class district of Myingone hours after being freed from nearly four weeks' imprisonment in Rangoon's Insein jail.

The rally was near the sport where the first students were shot by martial law troops in four days of mayhem starting on Aug. 9.

Although he was alongside Ne Win in the 1962 coup, Aung Gyi fell out with his former mentor a year later and after years of low profile, when he built up a chain of tea shops, he has emerged a favourite of the long-suppressed opposition.

In his last letter on July 19 he warned that the country could become "an animal kingdom." He accused BSPP leaders of turning a blind eye to beating and rape of detainees.

Diplomats predicted possible differences between him and Aung San Suu Kyi, 42, who has been living in Oxford, England but whose family name, in the words of one diplomat, "is magic."

"Aung Gyi is a successful private sector businessman. She, more like her father, is an idealist," commented a Rangoon resident who monitors political

events.

"To a certain extent they are on different sets of political tracks. There is not much in common between them," he added.

The two were due to share a platform during a massive rally Friday near the towering Swedagon Pagoda where Aung San also addressed political rallies.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who returned to Rangoon since April to visit her ailing mother, was born the year before her father, who engineered independence from Britain, was assassinated.

She too has addressed a big crowd this week, outside the Rangoon general hospital which became a rallying point for resistance after nurses were shot there from a passing armoured car on Aug. 10.

The opposition movement has not been allowed to mature. These people are united against what they don't want now. But the important thing is to work out exactly what they do want," a diplomat said.

Other political impetus could come from Burmese exiles, such as Tyn Myint U, son-in-law of the late United Nations Secretary-General U Thant, who now works in Bangkok.

He has already issued a statement demanding restoration of "ultimate political authority to the people of Burma."

Bangladesh may always have to look abroad for its food

By Syed Ahmeduzzaman

Reuters

JOYDEVPUR, Bangladesh — Bangladeshis do not like potatoes.

It would help if they did, agricultural experts said, since changing dietary habits would boost efforts to help the impoverished nation feed itself.

The government has long tried to get its 105 million people to change their dietary habits and eat potatoes — it grows about 1.2 million tonnes of them a year — and so lessen dependence on rice and wheat.

"We are trying every way and

telling them to eat more potatoes, vegetables and fruits. But the impact of the campaign is still small on the majority of the people living in the villages," a food ministry official said.

"Changing the people's food habits seems almost an impossible task. They would prefer to starve rather than try something other than rice and wheat," another official said.

"This amounts to a tragedy because 80 per cent of our population live below the international poverty line," he said.

Agriculture experts working on a government project to raise farm production and cut food

grain imports in the next four years said higher food production might be an impossible goal.

Squeezing more production from the country's poor soil is not possible without spending millions of dollars — which the government does not have — on buying fertiliser.

"We are puzzled over the government's aim to increase annual rice and wheat production by four million tonnes to 20 million by 1992," said Mohammad Mohsin Mondal, director general of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute at Joydevpur, north of Dhaka.

"The government has already

extended the time-frame for attaining food self-sufficiency by two years from 1990, but it still looks like a too ambitious project," he said in an interview.

Institute officials said Bangladesh would need to almost triple its annual use of fertiliser to three million tonnes, mostly zinc sulphate, an existing farmland.

"There is no way to bring more land under cultivation," said one. Bangladesh's 11 million hectares of farmland are already feeling the pressure of a growing population, increasing by 2.4 per cent a year.

The government is pinning its hopes largely on cultivating high-

yielding varieties of rice, the staple food of the country, and developing rice plants to withstand flood.

It hopes to produce 17.5 million tonnes of foodgrains in the fiscal year which started on July 1 — more than one million tonnes up on last year. Even if that target is achieved the country will still need to import more than two million tonnes to cover domestic food needs.

While population growth is constant, agricultural production is less predictable and frequently cut by bad weather. "Much of a breakthrough in agriculture de-

pend on the mercy of nature," Mondal said referring to the recurrent monsoon floods.

In the last year, the government had to import more than three million tonnes of grain to cover destruction to the rice crop following the worst floods in 40 years.

According to government estimates, more floods in June and July swept away another 1.33 million tonnes of rice.

Mondal calculated that another 12 per cent of the country's annual food output is devoured by pests or wasted during harvest and marketing.

Triple killer on the loose in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police launched a wide search Sunday for a triple murderer who escaped from a maximum-security prison after he smuggled a gun into his jail cell and hijacked a prison van, taking two guards hostage, a prison spokesman said.

The prisoner, Herzl Avitan, was serving a double life sentence for two murders, one of a prison official. He was imprisoned in the top security section of Beersheba prison in the southern Negev desert, awaiting sentencing for a third killing.

Police erected roadblocks throughout the Negev after Avitan's escape Saturday, mobilising hundreds of forces to provide protection for judges who ruled against him, said Jehonnie Tester, prison authority spokesman.

Security forces urged the public to be wary and warned he was armed and dangerous.

"If he gets stuck in a situation where he has to kill someone, he won't hesitate, and he has threatened a lot of people," David Kraus, Israel's chief police commissioner, told Israel Radio.

Avitan escaped Saturday afternoon after feigning illness during his daily walk and being returned to his cell. Ya'akov Arbib, a prison guard taken hostage for several hours, told the radio.

"We opened the door to his cell and there he was with a gun," said Arbib, who arrived at the cell with a medic and another guard.

He said he cooperated with Avitan because "when there's a gun held up against you, either you do what he says or you go to the next world."

Avitan tied up the medic and one guard, then ordered Arbib to radio for a van with a driver. The prisoner commanded the van to break through the prison gate and drive towards Beersheba, where he released the two hostages and disappeared, Arbib said.

It was the second time Avitan escaped from prison, and authorities had taken special security precautions after being tipped off that he was preparing another breakout, Israeli news reports said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Reagan on trial in Libya

TRIPOLI (R) — President Reagan went on trial in Libya Sunday charged with trying to assassinate Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi by bombing Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986. Reagan was not present as the court gave him 24 hours to send a defence lawyer, failing which it will appoint one. The Havana-based Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of America, founded in Nicaragua by left-wing lawyers and activists from nine Latin-American states in 1981, brought the case against Reagan. Court President Guillermo Toriello Garrido of Guatemala said the bombing raid on the night of April 14, 1986 was intended to kill Qadhafi. It was a "deliberate act directed against the jama'iriyya (Libya) with the aim of assassinating its leader," he said. The wave of bombers killed 40 people and destroyed Qadhafi's home in a Tripoli army barracks. Washington denied trying to assassinate him and said the raid was retaliation for Libyan "acts of terrorism" abroad. Raja Mansour Musallam of the Libyan supreme court read an indictment of Reagan for "illegal acts against Libyan sovereignty." Isabelle Peron, the former president of Argentina who now lives in Madrid, was among guests at the court. She told Reuters she was on a private visit to see Qadhafi.

Lebanese lawyer killed in attack

BEIRUT (R) — A rocket apparently aimed at Syria's military headquarters in west Beirut killed a Lebanese lawyer Sunday when it slammed into his apartment nearby, police said. They said Mohammad Hussein Al Ali died when the missile blasted his home 100 metres from the heavily guarded Syrian offices in Ramlet Al Baida coastal district. Police could not identify the type of rocket which was fired from a deserted area one kilometre away. A series of explosions which security sources said were directed at Syria's military presence has jarred west Beirut in recent days.

Iran reportedly closes Eritrean office

ABU DHABI (R) — An Eritrean rebel official has said that Iran has closed their office in Tehran as a prelude to reopening the Ethiopian embassy there. Ahmad Al Haj Ali, representative of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in Abu Dhabi, said Saturday its office in Iran was shut about a week ago after moves between Tehran and Addis Ababa to reopen embassies in the two countries. He said the Eritrean guerrillas did not object to Ethiopia establishing relations with other countries. "Our problem is not that the whole world recognises Ethiopia but that Addis Ababa rejects our right to independence, although we reaffirm our desire to set up good ties with Ethiopia after independence," he said. The EPLF is one of several Eritrean groups fighting for the independence of the Red Sea province.

Iran reports 25 dead in floods

NICOSIA (AP) — Flooding in the mountains west of Tehran killed 25 people and wounded 18, Iranian television reported Saturday. The television update on the floods a day earlier in the mountain town of Damavand also said seven people were still missing, 100 residential and 30 commercial buildings were destroyed and 81 vehicles were wrecked. Earlier reports on the floods after two days of heavy rain said they caused hundreds of millions of riyals in damage. Damavand is about 60 kilometres west of Tehran. Elsewhere in Iran, Tehran Radio reported that a tremor struck the town of Mamasani in southern Fars province Friday, measuring 3.9 degrees on the Richter scale. The report said the town 100 kilometres northeast of the provincial capital of Shiraz, has been hit by 300 tremors in the past two weeks. One person died and 2,000 homes were destroyed in an Aug. 11 quake there that measured 6.2 on the Richter scale, the report said.

Soviets said to expand military base at Tartous

NEW YORK (R) — The Soviet Union is expanding its military installation on the Syrian coast to serve as a new base for its warships in the Mediterranean, the New York Times Sunday quoted Reagan administration officials as saying.

It quoted White House, State Department and Defence Department officials as saying they were concerned about new construction at Tartous, Syria, which they said coincided with increased Soviet naval operations in the region.

National Security Agency Director Rear Admiral William Studeman told Congress in a recent report that the Soviet navy would be able to repair and maintain its Mediterranean fleet at Tartous, the newspaper said.

"This will obviate the necessity of frequent naval transits to home ports in the Black Sea," Studeman said.

Norman Polmar, a consultant to the U.S. navy, told the newspaper the new installation "permits the Soviets to operate their naval forces more efficiently and effectively and to keep ships in the Mediterranean at a high state of readiness."

The Soviet Union is Syria's biggest arms supplier.

The newspaper said White House officials said they had repeatedly asked the U.S. embassy in Damascus to obtain detailed information about the purpose and use of the buildings being constructed but the embassy had not yet provided details.

Church launches fresh effort to free hostages in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — The Anglican bishop for the Gulf and Cyprus met with a Christian spiritual leader Sunday in a fresh effort to gain the release of British and other hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists.

The Right Rev. John Brown, who is based in Cyprus, said his hour-long talks with Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butros Seir of the Maronite Catholic Church "centred on the fate of the hostages in Lebanon and the chances of their release."

"We also discussed the possibility of the Maronite patriarch undertaking an initiative to help resolve their problem," he added.

He declined further comment and Seir made no statement after the meeting at his hilltop palace in Bkriki, 20 kilometres north of Beirut in the Christian heartland.

It was not known when Brown arrived in Lebanon on his second officially announced visit in five weeks.

Nor was it immediately known whether he plans to meet other Lebanese leaders or how long he will stay in Lebanon.

His renewed efforts came amid speculation that the British hos-

tages will be released soon following a thaw in Britain's relations with Iran.

The first British diplomat to visit Iran in more than a year said on his return to London Sunday that he had no news about the fate of Anglican church envoy Terry Waite and other Britons believed held in Lebanon.

"There was no news at all," David Reddaway told reporters at Heathrow airport. "I made our concerns known, but I didn't have any news."

"I raised the point we made before that we hoped any government that could influence people holding hostages would actually use that influence and they certainly registered that point."

The thaw in relations between Britain and Iran has raised hopes for the return of Waite. T.V. newsman John McCarthy and teacher Brian Keenan who now holds Irish citizenship.

Waite disappeared in Beirut on

Jan. 20, 1987 while seeking the release of American hostages. McCarthy disappeared April 17, 1986, and Keenan was seized by armed men six days earlier. No one has claimed responsibility for holding them.

The Rev. Brown visited Lebanon last month at the request of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, primate of the Church of England, to speak to Christian leaders about three Iranians who disappeared in a Christian-controlled zone near Beirut in July 1982.

The missing Iranians are Revolutionary Guards Commander Ahmad Mousavi, Charge d'Affaires Mohsen Musavi and Kazem Akhavan, a correspondent for the Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency.

The area where they were believed to have disappeared is controlled by the Lebanese Forces, the rightists' main militia in the 13-year-old civil war.

Iran's parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, has said Tehran would use its influence to help free the British hostages if the Church of England used its good offices to determine the fate

of the missing Iranians. Britain's Foreign Office said in June that it had evidence that photographer McCarthy and teacher Keenan were alive then, but said there was "no hard evidence about his wellbeing or whereabouts."

The fate of another missing Briton, New York-based writer Alec Collett, is also uncertain, although British officials believe he is probably dead.

Collett, 68, was abducted March 25, 1983, in south Beirut while on assignment for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which cares for Palestinian refugees.

His abduction was claimed by a group calling itself the Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims. It claimed April 23, 1986, that it had hanged Collett in retaliation for the U.S. air raids on Libya earlier that month.

The group issued a videotape a week later purporting to show Collett dangling from a scaffold. But no body has been found.

The other foreigners missing in Lebanon comprise nine Americans, an Indian, an Italian, a West German and two unidentified men.

Velayati: No hostage help until assets freed

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Iran's foreign minister has said his country's efforts to free U.S. hostages in Lebanon would be limited until Washington releases frozen Iranian assets.

"Why should we show our good will unilaterally? We will try, but naturally not an extraordinary effort," Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday on U.S. television.

Velayati, interviewed in Geneva, also said that freeing assets, frozen in the United States since 1979 when the U.S. embassy in Tehran was occupied, was a condition for holding talks on normalising relations between the two countries.

"The U.S. must prove it is ready to change the atmosphere," he said, adding: "We are not ready to nominate an official to talk with the U.S."

Some political analysts have said that U.S.-Iranian relations would not be normalised until the death of the Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's spiritual leader.

But Velayati, a doctor, said Khomeini was in good health. "He is quite well. Better than me. Quite recently I met him," the foreign minister said.

Velayati said it was too early to judge whether talks with Iraq in Geneva would finally end the eight-year-old war, but he accused Iraq of raising extraneous

issues.

Hostage's sisters plan trip to Iran

Two sisters of Brian Keenan, the Irishman thought to be held hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian extremists, said they would mark his 38th birthday next month by travelling to Iran to seek his release.

Brenda Gillham and Elaine Spence said they would travel with four friends and approach anyone with the "slightest influence" over the kidnappers.

"We will be pleading for a human being's life," Mrs. Gillham said. "He was just an ordinary person trying to help people

through his teaching... we are just going to show what it is doing to his family and friends."

Keenan disappeared April 11, 1986, while walking to the American University in Beirut (AUB) where he taught English. No group has claimed responsibility for kidnapping him, but was seen being seized by armed men and is believed to be held by a pro-Iranian group.

His family believe he was kidnapped by people who may have thought he was American or British, rather than a citizen of Ireland, a small, neutral country.

Keenan was born in Belfast, but chose to become a citizen of Ireland rather than of Britain.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Iran-Iraq peace talks make little progress

(Continued from page 1)

Khomeini that Iraq was responsible for problems at the talks. Hamadi said: "It is the Iranian side which is presenting erroneous interpretations of the contents of (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 598."

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansouri Sunday contended that "Iraq continues to have designs on Iran's territorial integrity," and that Iraq "is undermining the talks by bringing up irrelevant and objectionable topics, such as Iraq's claim of sovereignty of the Arvand River" (Shatt Al Arab).

The pace of negotiations was so slow, he said, "that they may drag on for years."

In Baghdad, the Al Jumhoriya daily accused Iran of "hindering the process of peace by making groundless allegations" against Iraq.

It called on Iranian leader to "avail themselves of the historic opportunity... to establish a lasting, comprehensive peace."

The director of the Iraqi Ports Authority, Fahim Mousa, said Sunday that the country's Gulf ports were preparing to receive and service commercial ships for the first time since the outbreak of the war.

The Shatt-Al Arab, the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, has been a bone of contention between Iran and Iraq since at least the 19th century due to its vital importance to both countries as a trade outlet to the sea.

The 1975 agreement moved the border from the Iranian bank to the middle of the deepest channel, thus giving Iran navigation rights.

When Iraq tore up the treaty, it said the document had been signed under pressure. Under the treaty, the late Shah of Iran had agreed to stop helping insurgent Kurds in Iraq.

Iraq also accused Iran Sunday of violating the Gulf war ceasefire 14 times in four days and said all the incidents had been reported to United Nations military observers.

The head of the U.N. team said earlier that all was calm and quiet at the front. "We are enjoying very good help and understanding of both parties and minor problems are being resolved through negotiations with them," Major-General Slavko Jovic said.

Velayati, heading the Iranian delegation in Geneva, was asked Sunday if he was prepared to show flexibility. "Why are you asking for flexibility?" he answered. "We are at the dispos-

al of the secretary-general." Sunday's talks began with separate consultations with both Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz, U.N. officials said.

It was not known if a joint plenary session would be held. "It (the talks) is not a deadlock and it is moving," Francois Giuliani, the secretary-general's spokesman, told reporters Sunday evening. "The secretary-general would like the talks to move faster," he said, "but there is no sense of frustration, dismay or despondency."

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday that Perez de Cuellar had suggested setting up an impartial committee to identify the "aggressor" in the war and to release its findings by the end of November.

The report was confirmed by Western diplomats. The tribunal is one of Iran's major demands and it insists that Iraq be branded the "aggressor." Creation of the panel is part of U.N. peace plan Resolution 598.

The report said the three-man committee would be headed by a member of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Both Iran and Iraq would send a liaison officer, the report said.

Israelis close Palestinian charity federation

(Continued from page 1)

collaborator... nobody left a note, as far as I know, to say why he was killed."

In Arab Jerusalem, police raided offices of the Union of Charitable Societies and Maktabat Al Haya Press Service. They claimed the union had channelled money into the occupied territories from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Ellen Al Araj, deputy head of the charity group, denied the organisation had political goals and said many of the group's projects would be hurt by the closure.

She said its activities include helping the poor and handicapped and providing funds for youngsters to attend pre-schools.

"I don't know why the Israelis are carrying out this campaign, and I denounce it," said Araj, 68. She said the federation includes 108 charities in Jerusalem that are funded by Arab charitable organisations in Jordan and by Saudi Arabia's Aramco.

The union was run by Dr. Amin Al Khatib, detained since

last month without trial.

The press service served the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), according to Israeli officials. But Palestinians said two journalists offered freelance services from the office for the local and foreign press.

The closures, part of a clampdown using sweeping emergency powers inherited from pre-1948 British rule in Palestine, was another move against efforts by Palestinians to establish autonomous institutions in the occu-

pled territories.

Curfews remain
The 140,000 residents of the occupied territories who have been confined to their homes included 30,000 residents of Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza where troops wounded at least eight demonstrators overnight.

In the West Bank, the 15,000 Palestinians of Amari and Tul-karm refugee camps remained confined under curfews imposed for 12 consecutive days.

Jordan's move on right direction

(Continued from page 1)

by the PLO of its full responsibilities as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The statement, carried by the AP, did not spell out what steps were or whether the PLO had decided to form a government-in-exile.

Javier Perez de Cuellar told reporters after his 90-minute private meeting with Arafat at the Palais de Nations that "there was

a long discussion about all aspects of the Palestinian question."

"He conveyed to me his concern about the fate of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, which I do share," he added.

U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani later said Arafat "asked for the PLO's protection" for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and that the secretary general "undertook to do whatever he could to help."

By John Rice
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — As Iraq and Iran opened peace talks in Geneva Thursday, U.N. military observers scramble to assemble the nuts and bolts of a ceasefire despite communications snags, minesfields and suspicious host countries.

All of the 350 observers, drawn from 24 countries, were in place by Thursday, U.N. spokesman Saleem Fahmawi said, with communications personnel expected to establish a radio network "very soon."

Fahmawi described the situation as "very positive." He noted that there have been "no major changes in the status quo" since the ceasefire took effect Aug. 20, "just minor incidents which have been fully resolved."

But diplomats and other sources said that mixups over transportation, passports, communications and protocol meant that some observers were not in place Aug. 20.

Those who were frequently found themselves with inadequate communications, poor maps and uncertainty about the location of minefields as they patrolled in temperatures often exceeding 110 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius).

U.N. officials have reportedly

sought detailed maps from the United States, but no one knows when they will arrive.

Diplomats and U.N. officials said they are rapidly overcoming the snags which the hastily assembled force, sent to countries unfamiliar with U.N. procedures, had been expected to face.

"They're no more than the growing pains of a new mission in two countries which have absolutely no experience with this type of thing," said Colonel John Annand, the Canadian deputy commander of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UN-IHOG).

Iran and Iraq, both deeply suspicious of outsiders and distrustful of each other, found hundreds of foreign soldiers, some armed, landing at their airports with their own communications equipment.

Sensitivities

Big U.S. C-5A Galaxy transport planes ferried Canadian communications troops to NATO's Incirlik base in Turkey.

The jets flew on to Iraq, but shipments to Iran were transferred to Canadian C-130 transports because of political sensitivities in Tehran.

The delays caused by the transfers were compounded when Iran initially demanded 48 hours' notice and a complete list of men and equipment on each flight, diplomats said.

Iran also insisted that all flights first go to Tehran rather than to posts close to the border. The Iranians later relented, but they have no refuelling facilities at the forward airfields for the transports.

Iran objected to the assault rifles carried by U.N. support troops.

Although U.N. troops normally need no passports, diplomats said Tehran demanded them, forcing consular officials to scramble to issue hundreds of new documents.

As a result, diplomats said, operations in Iran have been about two days behind those in Iraq, forcing the delay of some operations in Iraq.

Communications

Efforts to set up a U.N. communications network were complicated by confusion over frequencies. Iraq approved one set, Iran another. Now officials are trying to get them to agree on a single set of observers on both sides can talk to each other.

Diplomats and U.N. personnel said they rely heavily on the host armies to help out during the initial cease-fire stages.

Observers in the central sector

said they sleep and eat in Iraqi officers' quarters and depend on Iraqi guides and translators. They said cooperation was good.

Observers are using hand-held UHF radios to report to team command centres. These relay the messages on local telephone lines to sector headquarters, which use Iraqi lines to reach the central HQ in Baghdad.

Within a few days, diplomats said, the communications teams should have a U.N. net carrying communications all the way from the front to U.N. headquarters in New York.

The observer teams have little idea where the border is. Diplomats said that's not a major problem: The idea is to freeze the front.

Where is the border?

But one of the observers' main tasks is to make sure that under the ceasefire provisions both armies withdraw to the pre-war frontier.

That's likely to be most difficult in the north, where the Iraqis have long infiltrated into the Kurdistan mountains to fight alongside Tehran-backed Kurdish guerrillas. The Iraqis are still battling the rebels in the region.

The 1,180-kilometre border has been in dispute for decades, and will have to be ironed out in the

Geneva talks. Diplomats believe the border question will be a thorny one.

The Iraqis consider the southern border to be the Median line of the Shatt Al Arab waterway under a 1975 agreement.

But Iraq tore up that treaty days before the war erupted in September 1980 and is likely to claim sovereignty over the whole waterway. Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf.

A Norwegian observer, Captain Arne Ophus, told reporters he didn't know where the border was.

"They don't have any markers where it should be and I don't have the proper maps," he said. "I have to believe those guys (Iraqi guides)."

With only 350 men, the observers cannot spot every incident. But they will check reports of violations and significant troop movements along the front, which ranges from rugged mountains in the north through ravine-cut hills in the centre to marshes and desert in the south.

"Mines are the biggest problem," Ophus said. "We have to be careful."

The guides who accompany the observers in their air-conditioned Toyota land cruisers don't know where all the minefields are because many were planted by the Iraqis.

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Central banks leash dollar; dealers split over possible rally

By Peter Millership
Reuters

LONDON — The dollar starts this week sharply lower after last week's massive central bank intervention to cap its rise and dealers were split on whether America's currency had the strength to stage a new rally.

A round of interest rate hikes by six European nations Thursday and a concerted wave of dollar sales by central banks during the week left a battered dollar at 1.8585 West German marks at Friday's close, six pence down Monday's finish.

Strong comments from West German Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl, criticising the dollar's recent surge, further undermined the U.S. currency, which hit a 19-month high of 1.92 marks earlier in the month.

"The dollar's uptrend has been thwarted for the time being," said Frank Pusateri of Bank of Boston in New York.

The determination of the powerful Bundesbank to weaken the dollar has disconcerted financial markets, haunted by rising interest rates and a fear of inflation, dealers said at the weekend. Most forecast a nervous start to trading Monday and were reluctant to predict a trend.

"The Bundesbank was incredibly forceful (last week)," said James O'Neill, an economist at Swiss Bank Corp in London where markets will be closed Monday for a national holiday.

Poehl said the central bank

would do all it could to stop further mark depreciation, which analysts said appeared an overt threat of heavy intervention and or higher interest rates.

A key factor in the dollar's future will be how far the U.S. Federal Reserve is prepared to raise rates to curb inflation and how far the Reagan administration is ready to go to ensure a firm dollar ahead of the November presidential election, economists said.

Investors jittery

Investors are jittery lest interest rates now go up again in the United States, and in Japan, leading to a competitive round of increases that would crimp global economic expansion.

The West Germans, in raising their discount rate from three to 3.5 per cent last week, wanted to make Deutschmark assets more attractive and sap the dollar's strength.

Money has been attracted to it this summer as U.S. interest rates moved higher to deal with inflation in America. But a strong dollar puts up Europe's import bills.

The consensus amongst currency watchers was for the dollar to fall in the short-run to between 1.80 and 1.85 marks before recovering to about 1.87 to 1.92 over the medium-term.

Presenting a bullish view of the dollar, Juerg Dommermuth, a dealer at Vercins and Westbank in Hamburg, said: "We are already near the lower limit of the dollar's range."

Bob Bauer, senior dealer at Commerzbank AG, agreed. "We could easily see the dollar back up at 1.92 marks again."

Other analysts were more doubtful about the dollar's ability to rebound as long as the United States still relied heavily on overseas funding for its high external deficits.

Guenther Teich, treasurer of Bank of Boston, said the dollar could fall to 1.80 marks next week and be at 1.70 by the end of the year. Chris Zwermann, currency analyst at Swiss Bank Corp in Frankfurt, saw 1.73 marks by the end of the year.

Thursday's rates hikes caused a wave of big losses in stock markets where investors were alarmed by the global interest-rate rise. By Friday, however, most markets were keeping cool.

Wall Street shrugged off worries of further interest-rate hikes abroad. The Dow Jones industrial average closed ahead seven points Friday at 2,017.

In Saturday business on Tokyo's stock exchange share prices closed higher because of bargain-hunting which focused on recently-neglected shares.

Dealers said the uptrend reflected Friday's Wall Street recovery. The Nikkei Index rose 113.50 points, or 0.4 per cent, to 27,678.91 after tumbling 305.03 points Friday.

A recent drop in oil prices has dampened inflation worries. But oil futures edged higher in the United States Friday. The October contract on the New York mercantile exchange rose three cents to \$15.34 a barrel.

New York gold futures fell although prices ended above the day's lows after a late buying flurry. The October delivery gold contract finished down 80 cents an ounce at \$435.60 after hitting an early low of \$434.60.

Jordan, Iraq conclude trade talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Foreign Trade Ministry Under-Secretary Qabis Abdul Fattah left Amman for Baghdad Sunday after three days of talks with Jordanian officials, focusing on increasing trade exchange and removing obstacles in the way of a smoother flow of products between the two countries.

Abdul Fattah and Industry and Trade Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf Sunday signed minutes of meetings held in the last three days on ways to boost bilateral trade, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

"The two sides expressed satisfaction with the

achievements reached in all fields, stressing the importance of enhancing the role of trade centres in both countries," Petra said.

In the field of industry, the two sides stressed the necessity to continue cooperation in the field of fertiliser industries and extraction of rock phosphates between the Jordan Phosphate Mining Company and the Iraqi Phosphate Company.

Jordan and Iraq also agreed to continue cooperation in the field of energy and to work towards facilitating the flow of crude oil and its derivatives to Jordan.

Iran takes agricultural census

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Saturday started its first nationwide agricultural census, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Majid Jamshidi, head of Iran's statistics centre, told IRNA the agricultural data would be collected in 496 cities and in over 100,000 villages, 60,000 of which have permanent residents and the rest seasonal migrants.

He said current figures indicate about 30 per cent of the country's jobs are in the agricultural sector. Of the 11 million Iranians employed in 1986-87, over 3.3 million were working in the agricultural sector, he said.

Drinking water

In a related development, IRNA reported Saturday that the construction Jihad ministry has provided drinking water for 64 per cent of the country's total rural population, rural roads for 55 per cent and electricity for 66 per cent of the population.

Minister Rasoul Lahijanian also told IRNA that the increase in domestic wheat yields produced without irrigation hit a record 800,000 tons in 1987, up from 500,000 tons in 1986 and 15,000 in 1985, he said.

In terms of fisheries, which the ministry controls, he said a total of 194,000 tons of fish were caught last year, up 28 per cent from a year earlier.

Lahijanian said that over the next five years the ministry's most important plans include raising production of wheat without irrigation to two million tons, increasing the domestic production of meat by 250,000 tons through improving animal breeding and feeding and providing one fourth of the domestic egg and meat consumption.

U.K. warns U.S. Congress over S. Africa sanctions

LONDON (R) — Britain has warned U.S. congressmen it face pressure to ban American oil companies from North Sea exploration if British firms are harmed by proposed U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa.

The Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported that Britain's acting charge d'affaires in Washington, Brian Crowe, had sent congressmen a letter opposing the legislation.

The bill, sponsored by Congressman Ronald Dellums (Democrat-California), calls for an almost total trade embargo on South Africa but faces an uncertain future, with President Reagan opposing it.

It also bans U.S. subsidiaries of foreign oil companies from gaining U.S. oil, gas or coal leases as long as their parent companies continued to operate in South Africa.

"The British government would certainly come under strong domestic pressure to retaliate against U.S. oil companies operating, or wishing to operate

in the U.K.," Crowe wrote, according to the newspaper.

"Given the very substantial participation of U.S. oil companies in the North Sea... this is a situation which we very much hope will not arise," the letter said.

The Sunday Telegraph said the bill could affect the U.S. investments of British Petroleum and Royal Dutch Shell.

It quoted a British embassy spokesman as saying: "We stand by the letter. The legislation could have considerable influence on British interests and we are therefore defending these interests."

According to the newspaper, Shell has bought almost 25 per cent of the oil leases offered on the outer continental shelf offered by the U.S. government and B.P. has federal leases in Alaska and in the Gulf of Mexico.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is a staunch opponent of economic sanctions against South Africa, contending they would mainly harm blacks.

Soviet Union forms first cooperative bank

MOSCOW (R) — The first Soviet cooperative bank has been established in an expansion of the banking system designed to ease conditions for non-state enterprise.

The bank is located in Chirchik, in the central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan. Its authorised capital is one million roubles (\$1.6 million), and it may also use 20 million roubles (\$33 million) in deposits, Izvestia said.

It said the bank would set its own interest rates and provide simplified credit conditions for cooperative businesses, the new growth area of Kremlin economic reform.

"Cooperative banks will help overcome monopolism in banking," Vyacheslav Zakharov, deputy chairman of the Soviet state bank, told the government newspaper Izvestia.

"By expanding the banking network, we will facilitate the development of money-commodity relations in the country. Now money will become more precious than in the past, since credit will be provided on a commercial basis," he said.

Izvestia said shareholders in the cooperative bank would be paid dividends geared to its profits.

It said cooperative banks would also be set up in Moscow and Leningrad, and applications had arrived from Vladivostok in the Far East, Riga on the Baltic, and many cities between.

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Italian lira (for 100)	27.00	27.30	Iraqi dinar	370.00	380.00
Japanese yen (for 100)	278.50	281.30	Kuwaiti dinar	1370.00	1380.00
Swedish crown	57.90	58.50	Egyptian pound	165.00	170.00
Swiss franc	237.80	240.10	Qatari riyal	107.00	108.00
U.K. sterling pound	628.60	634.90	UAE dirham	106.00	107.00
U.S. dollar	372.60	376.60	Omani riyal	1000.00	1010.00
Deutschemark	200.50	202.50	Bahraini dinar	1030.00	1040.00

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	125023	JD 157630	260
Top three companies:			
Aladdin Industries	20250	JD 23663	37
Arab Aluminium	10750	JD 17098	25
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	12600	JD 15555	32
Parallel market:	21226	JD 8756	—
Development bonds:	1310	JD 14007	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	647477
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	641730
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	646171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordanian Businesses Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

U.N. finds Africa worse off than in '85

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Africa's economic crisis has failed to yield to corrective measures and the continent is worse off today than it was in 1985 when a five-year recovery plan was approved, according to the United Nations.

A report by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar released this week said, Africa's debt as a percentage of exports rose from 214 per cent or \$174.4 billion in 1985 to 295 per cent or \$218.1 billion last year and net resource flows stagnated.

The overall performance of the African economies remained unsatisfactory and economic growth throughout the 1980s had failed to match population growth, he said. As a result, per capita income was lower now than it was in 1980.

The document was prepared for next month's scheduled mid-term review by U.N. member states of a \$128 billion African economic relief programme.

"Additional bilateral aid is urgently needed, as are the resumption of export credits and measures to increase private direct investment," the secretary-general said.

When the General Assembly debated the African crisis three years ago, the United States and some other Western countries said that in return for their help the recipient states must make sweeping reforms that would stress free enterprise and reduce governmental intervention.

Perez de Cuellar reported "impressive" efforts to implement reforms, even at some social cost and political risk in some countries.

"However, not all governments have adopted reforms, nor are they being pursued with equal vigour in all countries," he said in calling for a deepened, strengthened effort in that direction.

But reform could not be sustained indefinitely in the face of an adverse external environment and without increased outside support, he added.

Citing Africa's debt burden as a major obstacle to recovery and development, he said this was likely to increase, with large repayments due from next year onwards.

"Debt service obligations, estimated at \$29 billion in 1987, are projected to reach \$45 billion a year by 1995," he said.

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Burmese students form union in defiance of law

RANGOON (Agencies) — Students who have spearheaded massive anti-government demonstrations in Burma defied state laws Sunday and formed a student union that pledged to struggle peacefully for full democracy.

"Our fight for democracy is not yet over... we want democracy, right of association and we will continue to resist any government that will deprive us of these rights," said Min Ko Naing, addressing some 50,000 fellow students on the campus of Rangoon University.

The students announced the formation of the All-Burma Students Union and named a temporary, 14-member executive committee with Min Ko Naing as chairman.

Student unions are illegal under current laws, having been banned shortly after former President Ne Win seized power in 1962, quelling a student uprising at Rangoon University and

ordered the destruction of the student union building on its campus.

As the students gathered at the traditional hotbed of political activism, government-run newspapers began to circulate again, carrying photos and stories of anti-government demonstrations.

All six government newspapers, four in the Burmese language and two in English, were shut down for three days by employees demanding freedom of the press.

Although reports of anti-government agitation were played down, Burmese readers noted that such articles and photographs would never have appeared in the press in past

decades.

"We agreed to return to work on promises by the authorities that we can now write freely," an editorial assistant of one of the state-owned newspapers said.

The campus rally indicated that students were prepared to move more into the open, but identities of the executive committee members were not revealed and little was known about the union leader although his name has been affixed to many anti-government pamphlets in recent weeks.

"We must carry on with unity and diligence and without resorting to violence until our goal for the revival of democracy in the country is achieved," Min Ko Naing said.

He said after democracy was won, a national student convention would be held to elect a permanent leadership for the union.

Meanwhile Aung Gyi, released last week after nearly a month in jail for his opposition activities,

told Reuters in an interview: "We are on the verge of anarchy. The situation is almost out of control."

Rangoon has been rife with reports of looting and arson after troops and police were withdrawn from the streets following weeks of demonstrations to force the Socialist leaders to concede to multi-party democracy.

Aung Gyi, a 69-year-old retired brigadier said: "Time is running out. The government must act quickly to give the people democracy."

Rangoon residents said law and order had virtually broken down. Neighbourhood watch groups provide the only security.

Residents said petrol supplies in the capital of three million people were virtually finished and food transport had broken down.

Aung Gyi said he feared food riots and more looting, particularly of rice, the staple food of the impoverished country's 38 million people.

Marchers mark King's speech

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of thousands of marchers tried to recapture the spirit of Martin Luther King on the 25th anniversary of his "I have a dream" speech Saturday with warnings that the struggle to fulfill his dream of equality is far from over.

Singing "We Shall Overcome," demonstrators led by Jesse Jackson, Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis and Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights leader, marched from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial waving signs and banners in the hot midday sun.

U.S. Park police estimated the crowd at 55,000 people, far fewer than the 250,000 who thronged the National Mall for King's famous oration climaxed the march on Washington Aug. 28, 1963, a crowd that was equalled five years ago at a 20th anniversary march.

At the time, it was the biggest demonstration ever held in Washington. The peaceful, orderly march — and King's galvanizing speech — are credited with spurring congress to pass the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 under pressure from then-President Lyndon Johnson.

A similar-sized crowd participated in the 20th anniversary march.

Dukakis and Jackson met on the front ranks of the march for the first time since the Massachusetts governor defeated the



Martin Luther King

black civil rights activist for the Democratic nomination last month.

Jackson led the monument rally in chants of "keep hope alive." Dukakis claimed only a Democratic president could help meet the demonstrators' demands for full social and economic equality.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,'" King told America.

It came at a time of often violent southern civil rights demonstrations and marches and helped bring about, one year later, the first of a series of historic federal civil rights laws that dismantled official segregation.

Warsaw admits policy mistakes

WARSAW (R) — Polish Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner in remarks published Sunday declared that his government had made policy mistakes in trying to solve economic problems behind almost two weeks of strikes.

Messner acknowledged errors as the country's Communist authorities sought to end Poland's worst wave of industrial unrest in seven years, prompted by workers' demands over pay and for recognition of the banned Solidarity Trade Union.

Western diplomats say the prime minister may be dismissed in an expected government reshuffle.

Messner told a meeting of Communist Party leaders Saturday that government economic reforms had included organisational errors and set out to achieve too many goals at one time. He said the structure of the economy was still faulty.

His speech to the ruling Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee followed fierce attacks on the government for the labour strife which has badly hit Poland's vital coal-mining industry.

Party Chief General Wojciech Jaruzelski urged the party to make a "brave turnaround" in its methods.

Messner is closely tied to the government's economic reforms

and Western diplomats expect him to be removed as a result of the committee's meeting.

In his speech, published Sunday by the official news agency PAP before the meeting resumed for a second day, he said the strike aims were political but accepted there had been mistakes in the economic policy.

"The plan to reach too many goals with one operation turned out to be wrong," Messner said.

"There were also organisational mistakes. We underestimated the pressure on wages caused by relatively high price rises. Were subjective reasons the source of these errors? To some extent — yes," he said.

"All in all, despite a growth in prices, we have not managed to improve the market (supplies)... with higher prices, the shop shelves were to be packed. They are not," he added.

Messner proposed a freeze on wages and prices until the end of the year. He said the current policy on prices and incomes had made some achievements but failed in many respects.

"We shall never solve the swollen problems without rearrangement of political structures, without changes in the organisation of social life... in other words, without deep modernisation of the current model of Socialism," he said.

Belgrade's call for calm goes unheeded

TITOV VRBAS, Yugoslavia (R) — Yugoslav leaders appear to be losing confidence as their calls to end widespread ethnic protests go unheeded, Western diplomats say.

About 15,000 Serbs and Montenegrins packed the central square of Titov Vrbas in north-east Yugoslavia Saturday, shouting "we want arms" and "army to Kosovo".

The rally, demanding action over alleged harassment of Serbs and Montenegrins by ethnic Albanians in the region, was the sixth in less than two months.

Protesters say they expect at least 500,000 at a rally in Belgrade next month and more demonstrations are planned.

But Miroslav Solecic, a Serbian

activist from Kosovo, told the crowd Saturday he hoped such activities would not be necessary, if "the state and the party... start doing their job by then."

Western diplomats in Belgrade said Communist Party leaders were showing signs of bewilderment and confusion after two calls for an end to protests were ignored. They were keeping a relatively low profile and pondering their next move.

"The protesters are challenging the leadership's authority and becoming increasingly militant," one diplomat added.

Central State and party presidencies, as well as local leaders in Kosovo and Vojvodina, have condemned the demonstrations and appealed for calm.

Burundi tribal feud deep-rooted but obscure

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Rwanda and Burundi are like twins in the womb of Africa.

The tiny nations, landlocked in the center of the continent, are a mirror image of each other, with common histories and languages and ethnic likenesses.

Cloaked by clouds that crown hills and mountain peaks and the smoke from thousands of cooking fires, Rwanda and Burundi are two of Africa's most beautiful — and poorest — countries.

They also are among the most obscure.

During the past quarter century, they have shared one of the world's worst ethnic disputes: The unrest between the majority Hutu and the Tutsi minority that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

The bloodletting that runs through the histories of both countries, like the meandering Akanyaru River that marks their common border, began anew Aug. 14.

Hutu tribesmen in two north-

ern Burundi communes set upon their Tutsi neighbours, hacking them to death with machetes and burning them alive in huts, refugees and Burundi officials say.

The Tutsi-dominated army was sent north as peacemaker, but the soldiers turned executioners after discovering the carnage inflicted on their tribesmen.

How the most recent blood-bath began is unclear. But historically, it has taken little to set either side off on a murderous rampage.

Gravediggers have confirmed at least 5,000 people killed. But hundreds of Burundians, mostly Hutu, who fled into Rwanda to escape the army's onslaught, insist that more people were left behind dead than the 40,000 who crossed the Akanyaru River to refuge in Rwanda.

In the beginning, there were many bodies floating along the river," said Alexander Munyakayaza, one of the officials in charge of three camps of refugees who have settled on



U.S. Vice President George Bush takes aim with a missile launcher on top of a tank while visiting the Air National Guard exhibit at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield Sunday.

Bush says SDI necessary against Soviet Union, madmen

DALLAS (R) — Vice President George Bush said Saturday the United States needed a new missile defence system not only for protection against the Soviet Union but also against "madmen like Qadhafi."

Defending the proposed Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), better known as the "Star Wars" programme, Bush said he backed continued research and development because military strength was the most effective deterrent against attack.

Bush, on the third day of a campaign tour of Texas, was addressing a U.S. marine corps division in Dallas.

The vice president said that

while Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had brought change and a new spirit to the Soviet Union, "he has a nice smile but iron teeth."

Therefore, the United States must deal with the Soviet Union from a position of strength. "We must keep our eyes open," he told the cheering marines.

Bush said his insistence on military strength as a deterrent against nuclear war as one of the main differences between him and Michael Dukakis, the Democratic Party's contender for next November's presidential elections.

Bush said the nuclear age has given rise to the danger of nuclear

missiles ending up in the hands of "madmen like Qadhafi... should that happen, we must be able to defend ourselves."

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has been portrayed by the Reagan administration as the main driving force behind Middle East acts of terrorism.

Bush described the April 1986 U.S. bombing raid on the Libyan capital of Tripoli as a lesson taught to the leaders of a country which had left "the finger prints of state terrorism" after taking hostages.

The raid killed around 30 civilians and damaged several residential buildings, including the French embassy.

Opposition leaders map post-Zia poll strategy

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's leftwing opposition leaders began mapping new strategies Sunday for a share of political power in the absence of the late President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) a nine-party alliance, slated two days of meetings in the southern city of Karachi following a Saturday rally in the arid, western Pakistani city of Quetta.

An estimated 20,000 supporters waved banners and chanted anti-Zia slogans as speakers called for a neutral caretaker government to guide the nation to a return to civilian rule in general elections scheduled for Nov. 16.

Zia died in a suspicious Aug. 17 plane crash along with many of his top generals. Several of Zia's

civilian backers have been appointed to a caretaker cabinet.

As chief of the army, Zia shared power with a civilian government for only three of his 11 years in power. But his replacement as army chief, General Aslam Beg, said last week the military's role would be to ensure an orderly transition to democracy.

Opposition leaders praised Beg's intentions but called on acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to replace the caretaker government with "neutral people" until the November polls.

"If Ishaq Khan wants peace and harmony in the country and cooperation of the political leaders, he should immediately do away with the present ministers," said Abdul Wali Khan, MRD leader of the Socialist Awami

National Party and current convenor.

"Unless this is done, no political will extend any continuation of Zia's dictatorship, a rule of tyranny and oppression which lasted 11 years," Wali Khan told the rally.

he called on Ishaq Khan to come out squarely for party-based elections instead of non-party polls ordered by Zia before his death.

The venerable Ishaq Khan, former senate chairman, told reporters at his first news conference that he would follow Pakistan's constitution, which recognises a party-based parliamentary system.

However, he said he would let the Supreme Court rule on opposition petitions to open the November elections to all comers.

IRA extradition triggers bombs, riots

BELFAST (AP) — A spate of bombings, shootings and riots hit Northern Ireland after the extradition of a prison escapee from the Irish Republic, Belfast said Sunday.

They said that up to midnight Saturday there were 193 attacks on the police, 23 shooting incidents, 17 bombings and 56 vehicle hijackings. Cars, vans and buses were driven off, some being set on fire, blown up or left with bombs that had to be defused.

Eight of the bombings were in Belfast and the others in Newry and Londonderry. Shots were

seriously hurt in the toll of 11 police officers, one soldier and three civilians injured. Those hurt included a two-year-old boy grazed by a bullet when gunmen fired on a Belfast army patrol as his parents' car drove past.

Police said bombs and bullets damaged 44 homes and business premises and new Belfast police station in west Belfast had 30 to 40 machine-gun bullets fired at it, although nobody was hurt.

Eight of the bombings were in Belfast and the others in Newry and Londonderry. Shots were

fired at security forces in Roman Catholic west Belfast and gasoline bombs were thrown at traffic.

"These were mostly random attacks," a Belfast police spokesman said.

"We attribute all the incidents to the IRA and their supporters. Saturday was the end of the loyalist marching season but there was no violence at any of the parades," the spokesman said, alluding to the traditional marches by the Protestant majority which wants to remain under the British flag.

COLUMN 8

Lovestruck Chinese acrobat defects

NICE, France (R) — A Chinese acrobat in love with a French man she met in Peking has defected during a circus tour of France and has asked for political asylum, police said Saturday. Lin-Ei Sui, 32, a member of the Peking Guangzhou Acrobatic Circus, disappeared from her hotel in the south of France Aug. 15 and went into hiding with her boyfriend, they said. French authorities are considering her request for asylum, a spokesman added.

Papal peck leaves legacy

CHINO, California (AP) — Armless musician Tony Melendez says being kissed by Pope John Paul II last year has brought him fame and fortune, but a peculiar legacy also emerged from the papal peck on the cheek. "It's scary. A lot of people want to kiss the same cheek," said Melendez, 26, who played the guitar with his feet and sang for the Pope in Universal City last September as millions watched on television. Since then, Melendez has gone from local church appearances to paid performances throughout the world, working three weeks every month. He leaves next month for a tour of Japan.

Bernstein marks 70th birthday

LENEX, Massachusetts (AP) — The famous friends of Maestro Leonard Bernstein flocked to the Tanglewood Music Festival to pay tribute to him on his 70th birthday. "He's irresistible," said songwriter Betty Comden, who has known Bernstein for a half-century. "He is a conductor, a composer, an extraordinary pianist and a great educator. He has brought music to millions and millions of people." At a Thursday evening cocktail party, Bernstein hedged when asked what he thought of the festivities. "I don't know yet. There're hours and hours of things ahead. I'll let you know then," he said.

Styron wins prestigious medal

PETERBOROUGH, New Hampshire (AP) — Author William Styron expressed ambivalence about adding the prestigious Edward MacDowell medal to a room already bulging with trophies, honorary cups and plaques. Styron, author of "Sophie's Choice" and "The Confessions of Nat Turner," received the award at the MacDowell Colony for Artists. Joining the ranks of 28 previous medalists including Leonard Bernstein, Georgia O'Keeffe, Alexander Calder and John Updike, Styron questioned whether awards and medals might actually hinder an artist's progress. "It's hard to believe that medals and honours might have improved the quality of the work of our literary ancestors," Styron said, noting that Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman never received awards.

Jackson dancing shoes on sale

LONDON (R) — A pair of autographed shoes once worn by pop star Michael Jackson fetched £3,300 (\$5,550) at a London auction of pop memorabilia, the auctioneers said Thursday. The lace-up shoes, signed by the singer in blue ink, were bought by an anonymous Canadian bidder during the annual sale at Christie's. The same buyer spent £2,200 (\$3,700) on a black t-shirt worn by Jackson on stage during his British tour. Pop fans have spent £58,863 (\$98,900) on a range of memorabilia, including clothing worn by stars, rare recordings and autographed material since the sale began Wednesday.

Diver attacked in restaurant

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Horrified patrons of a restaurant featuring a giant aquarium watched helplessly as a shark named "awesome" attacked an amateur diver during dinner Monday. Wiley Beavers, a local lawyer and certified diver, was feeding lettuce to another tropical fish attached to his left arm, Jay Polit, general manager of Sharkey's Reef Restaurant, told Reuters Tuesday. "Wiley's doing fine today, but he swears the shark was six feet between the eyes, not six feet long," he said, adding Beavers needed 75 stitches to close gashes in his arm and hand. "The others screamed when the shark attacked and another diver jumped in to help get him out because the other sharks were going into a feeding frenzy and moving in on the blood," Polit said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope hosts journalists

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — Pope John Paul II played host to some 200 foreign journalists and their families at his summer residence Saturday evening, joking and sharing a toast while evading political questions. It was the first time ever that John Paul had invited the Rome Foreign Press Corps to the Castel Gandolfo Papal Palace, about 30 kilometres southeast of Rome in the Alban hills. The Pope last winter visited the headquarters of the Foreign Press Association in Rome in what turned into an unprecedented full-scale news conference. But that was not to be the case Saturday.

'Mandela will not return to jail'

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, receiving treatment in a Cape Town hospital for tuberculosis, will almost certainly not go back to jail, a South African newspaper said Sunday. Mandela, 70, was taken to hospital August 12 from Pollsmoor prison, where he is serving a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule. Pressure on Pretoria to release him has intensified since then. "It is virtually certain Mr. Mandela will not be sent back to prison," the Sunday Times said in a report quoting senior government sources. Instead, Mandela may be allowed to continue his recovery in a convalescent institution, the newspaper said.

Soviets complete Italy inspection

COMISO, Sicily (AP) — Ten Soviets Saturday completed their inspection of the cruise missile base here in line with the superpower treaty to eliminate medium- and shorter-range nuclear weapons. U.S. and Italian officials said. The Soviets, escorted by 11 U.S. officials and four Italian representatives, inspected the 112 Tomahawk cruise missiles, launchers and related equipment during a 26-hour stay at the base. The treaty set a time limit of 24 hours for the inspection, but permission can be granted for extra time. After exchanging reports with their escorts, the Soviets flew back to Rome, where they are scheduled to leave Italy Sunday morning. The Comiso inspection was closed to the public, and no other details or statements were released.

S. Africa blast injures black man

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A bomb injured a black man in a wealthy white suburb of Johannesburg Sunday and two people died in Natal's black faction fighting, police said. The bomb blast rocked a street near a shopping centre where two weeks ago a limpet mine blew up in front of a supermarket. Bomb attacks in South African cities have increased in recent months. About 30 people have been killed and scores injured by bombings this year. Pretoria blames the African National Congress guerrilla movement, but the organisation says its policy is not to attack purely civilian targets.

U.S. laws cut illegal alien number

HOUSTON (R) — Life is much tougher for the many thousands of illegal U.S. immigrants and their numbers are decreasing since Congress passed a new reform law, immigration experts say. "It is much harder to get a job now. Everywhere you go people want to see your papers. Without papers you don't get a job," said Abel Velardo, a Houston maintenance worker from Mexico who has been in the United States illegally since 1979.